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Ancestry

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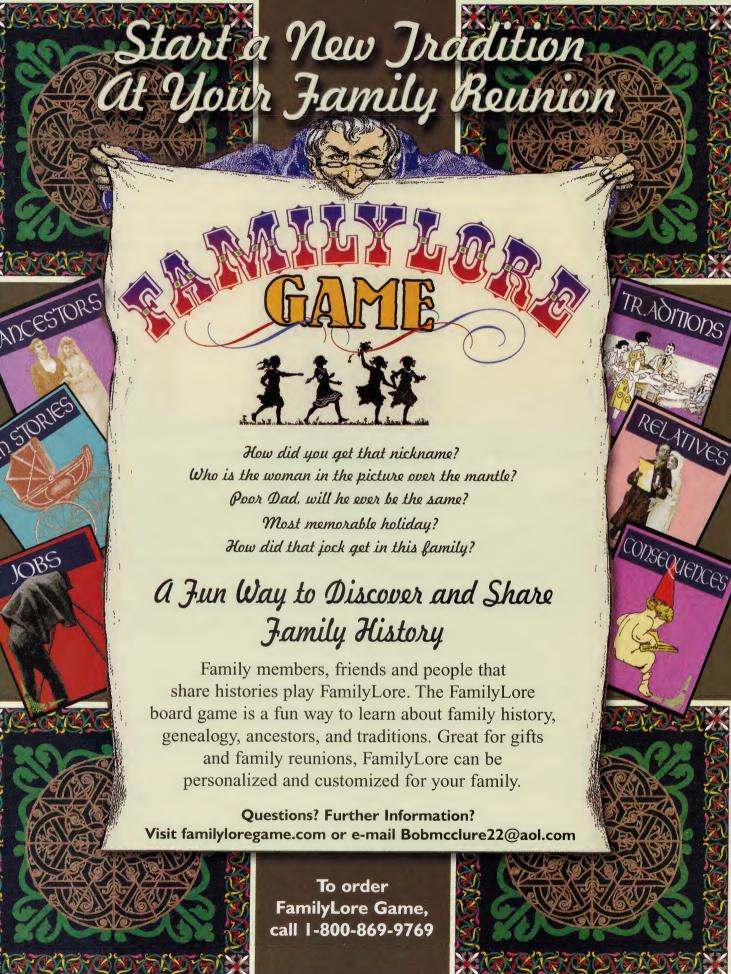
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Editor's Note

illa Cather wrote: "There are only two or three human stories, and they go on repeating themselves as fiercely as though they had never happened before." As we send this magazine to press, the dark clouds of war are hovering over us and the world is perhaps entering one of its most dramatic stories. Hard times tend to bring out the best and the worst of mankind and there is much to learn from it all.

A history professor taught me long ago that though we study events—when and where they happened, and what went right and wrong—we don't really learn from the past. Was he right?

As family historians, I believe we have a deeper-than-average sense of history. What's even better is the fact that we have an extraordinarily personal way of learning from it. More than names and dates on a sterile pedigree backdrop, the human experiences of our ancestors have a unique power to teach us, guide us, and inspire us.

Since scarcely any generation has gone untouched by war, military themes and the effects of war tend to play a large

role in our family lives. We are most fortunate to live in an age when various technologies allow us to locate, access, digitize, preserve, and share more and more details of our predecessors' stories in peacetime and in war.

One of the most intriguing tales I heard about my family was that of my ancestor who was said to have been a Frenchman who came to America with LaFayette. While I've yet to prove the tragic story my aunt told me about this sailor who lost his life at sea, I'd have to say that he was most responsible for sparking my interest in family history. Hearing of another ancestor's experience in the Civil War and reading my uncle's poignant letters from World War I battlefields in France were strong doses of the reality of war and its far-reaching effects on our family. Perhaps the hardest-hitting was my grandfather's grief-filled thoughts as he wrote of losing "Edwin B. Dyer, my only son" as a result of being gassed in France. I'm also old enough to have seen firsthand the stress my family went through when my older brothers fought in World War II and then in the Korean War. Fortunately, all of my brothers came home safely, but their lives and the lives of our family were forever altered by their experiences.



In our lifetime, we have seen death and destruction on horrific levels. We've also seen striking technological progress, wonderful scientific and medical advances, the widespread growth of educational opportunities, the spread of democracy, and for most of us a lifestyle improvement that our ancestors only dreamed of. We have taken courage and hope from the stories of our ancestors and living family members.

As my daughter, Juliana Smith, recently wrote in the *Ancestry Daily News:* "We live in scary times, but as I look back at the challenges and dangers that my ancestors faced, I still feel quite

fortunate. And as I learn more about them and the lives they led, the dangers they conquered and the brave steps they took to earn a better life for their families, I feel a great love and respect for them."

The big question is: Are we teaching the current generation and saving the stories so that future generations can benefit from them? The pages of this issue of *Ancestry* are filled with ideas to discover and preserve these priceless treasures. Valerie Holladay's article, "The Story of My Life," is designed to give you a sense of the importance of writing personal history, and the critical strategy and details for following through. Just possibly our children and our children's children can learn from these stories. If they do, they might not have to repeat the bad parts that happened before. $\mathfrak Q$

Loretto (Lou) Dennis Szucs

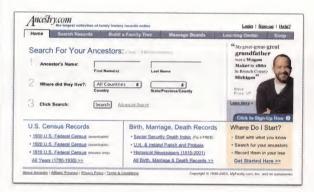
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What's New at Ancestry.com

New Ancestry.com Homepage

The new and improved homepage at Ancestry.com has easier access to the features you use the most. Now you don't have to scroll down the page and sort through a sea of links to find what you're looking for. And with the improved search box on the homepage, you can search for an individual in a specified country or state. Also, the new homepage loads about sixteen seconds faster than the current page (for those Internet users running a 56K modem).

The changes to the homepage are just a small part of the ongoing improvements to the Ancestry.com website, where visitors are sure to have the best family history research experience online.



1891 Wales Index Now Online

Researchers with Welsh ancestry now have one more tool to make their online research easier. For the first time ever, the 1891 Wales Census Index is available online, courtesy of Ancestry.com. The initial release includes Glamorgan County, with Pembrokeshire and Montgomeryshire following shortly. Each name in the index is linked to the image of the census returns, making it easy to access the information. Additional counties will be released on a regular basis throughout the year until the index is complete.

MyFamily People Finder

Have you lost touch with a family member, an old friend, or a military buddy? Do you need to locate a high school classmate, a distant relative, or someone

researching your family line? MyFamily.com is pleased to announce the release of the MyFamily People Finder, a new tool designed to help you reconnect with family members, loved ones, and friends.

The MyFamily People Finder brings a collection of powerful databases and millions of public records within your reach. Enter a search today and People Finder will check property records, motor vehicle records, voter registrations, directory assistance archives, a proprietary records vault, and more to provide the most current contact information available.

Reunite with family and friends with the help of the MyFamily People Finder, online now at http://reunite.myfamily.com.

Online Genealogy Training Classes

Are you new to family history research? Have you been doing genealogy for a while but you've run into a brick wall? Why not take an online genealogy class to help you with your research? Along with the core classes Beginning Computer Genealogy, English, Irish, and Scottish genealogy, classes now include German, Italian, Census, Writing Your Family History Newsletter, Immigration, Ancestry Family Tree, Multimedia Family History, Intermediate Genealogy, Northeastern U.S., Genealogy Research on the Internet, and Beginning Slovak Research.

Interact with our experts by asking questions regarding the eight lessons you will receive. The icing on the cake is the complimentary month subscription to Ancestry.com with each class you take. For more information on these classes, visit <www.ancestry.com> and click on the Learning Center tab, then click on genealogy training.

Historical Newspapers Include London Times

The Historical Newspaper Collection currently boasts more than 3 million pages, representing forty-six states plus Washington, DC. Content from the *London Times* (1788–1833) has also recently been added to the collection. Later editions of the *London Times*, through 1923, will be posted in coming months.

From Our Readers

A Gift of Letters

I just finished reading the Editor's Note in the March/April 2003 issue of *Ancestry* and was reminded of a similar thing I did a few years ago with letters that my mother had written. My mother died unexpectedly in 1996 at the age of sixty-four. My grandmother had been living with my parents at the time, and I found that my grandmother (who was suffering from dementia), had saved all of the letters that my mother had written to her from 1955 through the 1980s.

My mother and father moved from Philadelphia to the "wilds of New Jersey" in 1955. They were the first ones to move away. I was two years old at the time. My mother wrote home to her mother once a week for twenty years. The letters are priceless. They are history and windows into her life.

I scanned the letters, copied them (one for each of the children in the family), and put them into albums. Then I scoured the old photo albums that my mother had made and scanned pictures that corresponded to the letters. If she was

telling about a birthday party, I found a picture of the party. I put the pictures with the corresponding letters and made three albums. I gave them to my sisters (and saved one for myself) for Christmas. It was a wonderful project even if it was also a little difficult



because my sisters and I cry when we read the letters.

I recently found several letters written to my grandmother when she was a child and am thinking of doing a similar project with them.

Suzanne J. Moller

Readers' Voices

During a family history interview you have conducted, what question has evoked the best response? Why?

Sixty-year Romance

When I asked my grandparents how they ended up together, I was thrilled with the response I got. My grandmother was an ambitious lady, especially for her time, and when my grandpa asked her to marry him, she said she had too much to do with her life. She went away to college and then taught school for a few years before she finally consented—eight years later. (My grandpa never lets her forget how long he waited, but he insists that she was worth it.)

To my surprise, however, my grandparents' marriage story had a rebellious angle. When my grandmother's parents announced their disapproval of the union, the two of them ran off and eloped! Now, more than sixty years later, Grandpa still holds Grandma's hand with adoration, no doubt seeing the winner of the Dairy Queen beauty pageant behind her silver hair and aging skin.

Marissa Young St. George, Utah

Weird Relatives

My daughter and I have been trying for several years to find information on my paternal grandfather's family. Nobody really knows anything about them. My dad passed away in 2001 and my only hope for any information was his eighty-three-year-old sister. I called her and told her that I needed

some information on her father's family and asked her if she knew anything about that side of the family. Her response was "You have enough weird relatives who are living. Why on earth do you want to dig up the ones who are probably even worse?" After I stopped laughing, she told me what she knew, which was pretty much nothing, but the initial response was funny—especially since she was right about our living relatives.

Christina Griffin Woodbridge, Virginia

Readers' Voices Question

What are your best tips for writing a family history?

Please send your comments to Readers' Voices, c/o Ancestry Editor, 360 W. 4800 North, Provo, UT 84604, or e-mail <editoram@ancestry.com>.

Community



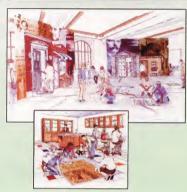
CITY MUSEUM OF D.C. TO OPEN SOON

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., will open the City Museum in the heart of downtown D.C. in spring 2003. Focusing on the neighborhoods beyond the Mall, the City Museum will be devoted to telling the stories of Washington's vivid past and colorful personalities in fresh and innovative ways. Of all the museums in Washington, the City Museum is the only one dedicated to the nation's capital city.

The museum includes permanent and changing exhibit galleries in addition to a multi-media introductory show, an education center, an archeology lab, and a public research library and reading room. Visitors will also enjoy a cafe and a museum store. Special events, walking tours, and lectures will offer many opportunities to explore Washington's past.

The historic Carnegie Library at Mount Vernon Square serves as the City Museum's home. This cherished Beaux-Arts structure served all Washingtonians as the city's Central Public Library until 1970. To learn more about the museum, visit <www.citymuseumdc.org>.





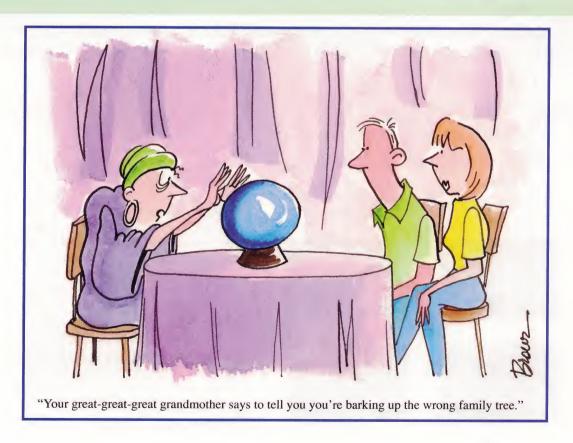


Photo Corner

This 1905 photo of my mother's family was taken in the parlor of the family home in DeSoto, Jackson County, Illinois. Note the gramophone on the left and the wedding photo of my grandparents. My mother, Noda Marie Culley, is the little girl seated in the chair. She celebrated her 100th birthday in February 2000 and died almost a year later. She treasured this photo.

-submitted by Virginia Ross





This 1906 photograph shows my great-great-grandmother Elizabeth reading letters to her husband, Michael Purkhiser. Michael was shot in the chest during the Civil War (he survived in a church for two days before receiving medical attention) and was on disability for the rest of his long life. They both died in 1908 after sixty-two years of marriage.

-submitted by Judy Heckman

Would you like to see a photo of your ancestors in *Ancestry*? Submit your favorite photos to Photo Corner. Submissions should include your name, contact information, date of photo, who is pictured, and a short description. Please do not submit a photo of living persons without their written consent. Mail a quality duplicate (no photocopies or originals) to *Ancestry* Magazine 360 West 4800 North, Provo, UT 84604, or e-mail a 300 DPI TIFF scan to: <editoram@ancestry.com > . Submissions become the property of *Ancestry* Magazine. You will be contacted if your photo is chosen.

Offerings at the Wall









National Park Service rangers and number in the tens of thousands. Offerings range from letters and photographs to worn boots and dog tags—each with a story known only to the donor.

In October 1992, the exhibit "Personal Legacy: The Healing of a Nation" opened at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The exhibit features some 1,500 objects that have been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Due to its popularity, the exhibit was extended indefinitely. To learn more about the collection, visit <www.nps.gov/mrc/reader/vvmcr.htm>.



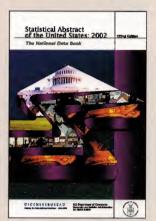
Virtual Genealogy Conference

amily History Radio will present the first international online genealogy conference, eGenConference, 10 June-10 July 2003. The conference will feature over 100 presenters, plus exhibitors and virtual social events where you can meet other genealogists and exchange information. Registration fees are \$69.95. To learn more about the conference, visit <www.family-historyradio.com/>.

America

in Numbers

The U.S. Census Bureau released recently the 122nd Statistical Abstract of the United States. This nearly 1000-page fact book compiled each year is considered the government's most important statistical publication on the social, political, and economic



aspects of American life. The abstract is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office for \$51 for a hardbound copy and \$41 for a paperback. Visit <www.census.gov/statab/www> to place your order. Also, to view the 2001 U.S. Census statistics, visit <www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/01statab/stat-ab01.html>.

Jamestown Settlement SKELETON FOUND

Researchers may have discovered the skeleton of Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, second-in-command at the founding of the Jamestown settlement in May 1607. A decorative staff found with the skeleton at the first permanent English settlement in North America indicates the man was a high-ranking member of the colony. Researchers will obtain DNA to match it with a living descendant of the Gosnold family. The remains will be buried at Jamestown.

Gosnold commanded the *Godspeed*, one of the three ships that landed with 107 settlers at Jamestown in May 1607, and he discovered and named Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. This is considered one of the most significant archaeological finds of early colonial history. For more information, visit <www.dailypress.com/nes/local/virginia/>.



Book View

By Sandra H. Luebking, FUGA

New York State Probate Records: A Genealogist's Guide to Testate and Intestate Records

By Gordon L. Remington. New England Historic Genealogical Society. 2002. 161 pages. Softcover. \$19.95 plus s/h. Order at <www.newenglandancestors.org>.

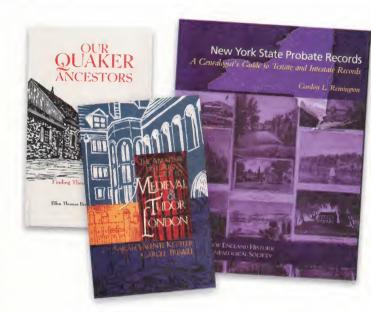
The author of New York State Probate Records, a professional genealogist, maintains that the richness of New York probate records more than compensates for a paucity of vital records. Whether the person died with (testate) or without (intestate) a will, there are potentially scores of pages pertaining to the family or property settlement. Finding these records is the subject of this book. Contact information is given for each of New York's sixty-two county surrogate courts and other repositories in which original probate records are located. A listing for each county shows formation date and parent county, the county seat and contact details, and what records are available elsewhere on microfilm or in print. The historical rules of inheritance for various governing periods (from New Netherland through the State of New York) are also given.

Our Quaker Ancestors: Finding Them in Quaker Records

By Ellen Thomas Berry & David Allen Berry. Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc. 1987 (4th printing 2002). 136 pages. Hardcover. \$19.95 plus s/h. Order at <www.genealogical.com>.

At the direction of founder George Fox (1624–1692), the Quakers began early to keep accurate and detailed records of all activities. This practice simplifies genealogical research for those who have ancestry among The Religious Society of Friends. Even moves between geographical boundaries can be traced by finding all vital statistics for entire families, along with extant minutes of monthly meetings. Searches are further eased by an abundance of published abstracts, although supplemental research in original records is advocated.

The location and content of Quaker records both in and outside of the United States fill most of the pages of *Our Quaker Ancestors*. But don't overlook the essential background information on the denomination's history and organization and the patterns of migration by its people. The fact that this 1987 guide is in its fourth unre-



vised printing attests to the book's significance and the relative stability of the Quaker record-keeping and maintenance system.

The Amateur Historian's Guide to Medieval & Tudor London

By Sarah Valente Kettler and Carole Trimble. Capitol Books, Inc. 2001. 309 pages. Softcover. \$20.00 plus s/h. Order at <www.amazon.com>.

The Tower, Guildhall, St. Paul's Cathedral, Newgate Prison, Westminster Palace, and the London Dungeon are just a sampling of sites covered by this pathfinder *The Amateur Historian's Guide to Medieval & Tudor London*.

After tracing your London ancestor, use this book to view his or her city. Retrieve dates of historical events and building construction (1066–1603) from its timeline. Locate medieval and Tudor sites on its overview map. Read the descriptions of multiple sites and note their access information. Wonder at the "did you know" commentaries on historical persons associated with each site. Finally, follow the excursion plans for one, two, three, or five-day trips. If you're fortunate, you'll see all the remaining seventeenth century sites and view what's on display as well in the London Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Gallery, the British Museum, and the British Library. Or, you could just enjoy an effortless virtual tour with a cup of Earl Gray at your side and the opened book in your hands.

Sandra H. Luebking, FUGA, a genealogical and historical lecturer and researcher, is the editor of the FORUM Magazine and co-editor of The Archives and the revised edition of the The Source.

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33

GENEAŁOG



s a child, I spent hours playing in the jewelry boxes of my grandmother and great-aunt. I handled and admired each treasured piece as I created gaudy combinations in front of the mirror. When I became a teenager, my love of jewelry remained, but my enthusiasm for the old-fashioned baubles in the boxes faded for more new-fangled fare.

Years later, when my great-aunt passed away, I became the heir of her jewelry box. I reopened the large stand-up mahogany chest and was filled with memories of the out-of-date pieces. Poised next to a wastebasket, I was ready to discard a large portion of the supposed junk that was housed inside. Then I discovered that although many of the pieces were not diamonds and gold, they were treasures. The box held pieces of a woman's life that provided clues to places, events, family ties, and personality.

BY KRISTEN DAME KNIGHT





Like me, you probably won't find much documentation on the life of your female ancestor through her jewelry, but with a bit of research, these little treasures are sure to yield clues to family history in the form of location, life events, and personality.

CLUES TO LOCATION

One of the most intriguing clues that can be gleaned from a piece of jewelry is the place of origination. Although not a source document for the location of an ancestor, understanding the regional distinctiveness of an

Turquoise, lapis, and cloisonné give clues to the origin of a piece of jewelry since they are unique to specific parts of the world.

TO RESET OR NOT TO RESET

After inheriting a piece of jewelry, people often wonder if they should reset the stones that are included, or leave the item as it is. Remember that once a piece is dismantled and made into a new piece, any antique value is diminished, as are the historical clues to the ancestor who wore it. Even if the item is made of inexpensive materials, if the piece speaks to an era, or decade, the collectible value of the item may be greater than you think. For example, Art Deco rhinestone bracelets, although made of inexpensive materials, may have value as a stereotypical symbol of the 1920s. Also, keep in mind that the one law of fashion is that fashion always changes. If you wait long enough, the piece will undoubtedly come back in style.

If you think the item might be antique, take it to a jeweler that specializes in antique pieces. It would be tragic to dissemble a piece to use the stones, only to find that you have negated the real value of the item.

If you decide to reset the stones or recreate a piece, photograph the piece from several different angles in its original state. Before you have it reset, write down what you know about the piece: where it came from, the approximate date it was made, the craftsman, and its value. Then, if you can, change as little possible. For example, changing a brooch into a pendant will offer minimal change to the basic design, but dismantling a channel or pavé set engagement ring will destroy the original setting altogether.

ancestor's jewelry can offer information on where your ancestor may have lived or traveled.

One of the treasures I discovered in my greataunt's jewelry box was a turquoise scarab
pendant. These small carved animals, although sold around
the world, are typically created by craftsmen in Egypt.
I learned that my aunt had a
penchant for travel in her
later years. Because she lost her
husband at a young age and never
had children, she spent her later
years traveling the world. From Egypt
to New Zealand to the Orient, her jewelry shows her as a woman of adventure.
Materials are one of the most effective

ways to distinguish location. Certain materials like semi-precious stones are mined in only a few places in the world. For example, lapis lazuli, with its opaque cobalt blue base and gold flecks, comes primarily from the Badakshan district of Afghanistan near the border of Pakistan. And turquoise comes from several places including the North American Southwest, China, Africa, and South America. Cloisonné beads are another example. These Chinese-made metal beads are crafted with a delicate layered enameling process and can be distinguished by their unique designs of flowers, fish, and other symbols of nature.

Materials can also offer a time frame for when the piece originated. For example, turquoise, although previously mined in several places in the world, now comes primarily from China; many of the other mines (like those found in the Southwest) are depleted of their stone. Subsequently, knowing where the materials originated may determine when a piece was created.

The style of the particular piece of jewelry can also lend clues to location. For example, brooches created from black jet during the late 1800s and early 1900s invariably came from a mine in Whitby, England. This mine was the primary producer of "Victorian" jet during that era. The Victorian style of jewelry is delicate and distinctive.

Therefore, pieces utilizing this style and material most likely originated from this area of England.

Many haute couture designers and high-end craftsmen mark



their pieces with a symbol. (Keep in mind that many of these marks are so tiny they can only be seen through a jeweler's loupe.) There are many resources available to help you decipher what a specific mark represents, and once you know a specific craftsman or designer, you will learn the place of origin. Consult books, antique dealers who specialize in jewelry, and jewelers who are trained in the repair or recreation of antique pieces.

Many times a manufacturer's insignia is found on the underside of a ring or earring clasp, or may be included on a small metal hang-tag placed near the clasp of a bracelet or necklace. Occasionally pieces include a serial number or design patent number. Numbers like these can be invaluable clues to when, where, and by whom a piece was made. Be careful that you don't confuse the popular "925" mark that appears on many sterling silver pieces as a designer or craftsman mark. This is an industry standard denoting that the piece is sterling silver. Imported pieces in particular will include this mark. Also, if you discover a set of initials stamped into the underside of a piece, these initials may be the stone setter's and not the designer's.

CLUES TO LIFE AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

Matching a piece of jewelry with an event or relationship can add depth and context to the life story of a family member. For example, the famous "I like Ike" political buttons are memorabilia that can teach future generations about the events surrounding the life of an ancestor. In this case, the ancestor was likely a proponent of Dwight D. Eisenhower's campaign for the presidency in 1952.

Fashion typically changes with shifts in societal values. Subsequently, by understanding the fashion of the time, you may be able to decipher clues to the context in which it was worn. For example, the demure single-strand sixteen-inch necklaces of the

Edwardian period illustrated the conservative values of the time and defined social roles of the era. But a decade later during the roaring twenties, brides were often seen wearing long, multiplestrand beads, some with knots or opulent diamond and pearl tassels at the end. Bead size also increased as the era saw its short-skirted flapper girls not only wearing more jewelry, but twirling and flaunting it as well. Excess and opulence had become a part of society in the 1920s and the jewelry of the day illustrated the sociological shift.

Keep in mind that because the fashion cycles were so short lived in the late 1900s, nearly every style of jewelry has been

These bejeweled brooches from three different decades demonstrate how quickly styles can cycle in and out. Above is a small rhinestone brooch from the mid-1950s, at left is a peridot-encrusted leaf brooch from the mid-1970s, and at right is a rhinestone cross from the early 1990s.



CREATING HEIRLOOMS FROM GRANDMA'S CHINA

Pendants are all the rage these days, and you can take advantage of the trend by creating pendants from your grandmother's traditional, but retired, china. The pendants are sure to become a legacy for your family.

To make a china pendant, take an ancestor's china plate (preferably one that is chipped or broken) to a mason who has a tile cutter that can cut curved or minute pieces. Mark the plate with various shapes you would like for your pendants, and have the mason cut the plate into the shapes you have outlined. Make sure you include enough of the china pattern so it will be recognizable within each pendant once the piece is cut.

After the shapes are cut, you can finish the pendant in one of two ways. One option is to have the mason drill holes directly into the top portion of the pendant. Once the hole is in place, simply hang the pendant from a silk cord or ribbon. Another option is to have a local silversmith set the piece of china in silver or gold. Ask the silversmith to include a ring at the top of the metal setting where you can string the pendant onto a chain.

If you plan to give the pendant to a family member, include some type of documentation that tells which family member owned the original china piece and when, the china manufacturer, and the pattern name. You may want to mark this information on the back of the pendant with paint or permanent marker. The documentation will make the gift meaningful for many years to come.



ARE GRANDMA'S PEARLS REAL?

Three Tried and True Tests

- 1. Use Your Eyes. Because they are created from layers of sand, real pearls have a softer glow and depth than most faux pearls have. The color looks like it goes through the pearl, while a faux pearl can look like it has only one layer of color that is sitting close to the surface—almost painted on. However, even this can be deceiving as the craftsmanship of faux pearls has come a long way. High-end faux pearls, like the Majorca brand, often imitate real pearls by stacking layers of color on a quality glass bead. To the naked eye and hand, the look and feel of these high-quality man-made pearls is remarkable and deceiving.
- 2. Use Your Pearly Whites. It sounds crazy, but the sure-fire way to tell if pearls are real is to rub them on your teeth. Fake pearls will feel slick against your teeth. Real pearls, because they are created from layers of sand, will feel like sandpaper against your teeth. Just make sure that you clean your pearls (and your teeth) after you execute this test! And, always ask permission before you rub someone else's pearls on your teeth!
- **3. Ask Your Jeweler.** Asking a jeweler to assess a strand of pearls is another way to test. He or she may take the time to look through a jeweler's loupe to see the layers in the pearl, but don't be surprised if your jeweler simply saves time and rubs them on his or her teeth to uncover the truth!

recycled in the last fifty years and reincarnations can be so convincing that owners can be deceived. For example, jewel-encrusted brooches from the 1940s were in fashion again in the 1990s, as were the long, knotted, pearl necklaces of the roaring twenties. Be careful not to assume that just because you found it in Grandma's jewelry box that it came from an early era. Utilizing a certified jeweler or antiques appraiser can help you determine the time period of the piece.

CLUES TO PERSONALITY

The jewelry a woman wore throughout her life illustrates her personality. My grandmother's sorority pin, my mother's pin, and my own pin demonstrate personality traits that have been passed down from generation to generation. And the symbols of our love for social interaction, loyalty, and the importance of friendship in our lives can not be illustrated in a more tangible way. The importance of education in our family is also

pins.

Similarly, military insignia can help you learn the personality of a family member who served in the armed forces. Where, when, and with whom a soldier served is made clear with certain types of insignia. Coupled with a photograph of the ancestor, these tiny items can speak volumes to the personality and life experience of an individual. They can also offer clues to location, skills, and

Charm bracelets are another way to understand a lifetime of activities and personal likes and dislikes. Made popular in the mid-1900s, each little charm can show the varied interests of the person who wore it.

connections with other cultures.

demonstrated by these three tiny lapel

FINDING A FAMILY HEIRLOOM

If you think you've discovered a piece of jewelry worn by an ancestor and you want to be sure, start by asking family members for information about the item and the person who wore it. Make sure that you ask for any photos that might show your ancestor either wearing the piece or participating in the event for which the piece was



graph the piece in different light. Colored gemstones can look very different in natural light versus incandescent light. Make sure that your record will allow anyone to recognize the piece if it was discovered separate from the documentation.

Once you have documented as much as you can, take the piece to a professional jewelry appraiser or to an antiques dealer who specializes in jewelry. Ask him or her to give you as much documented information as possible, including what the piece is made of (including the clasp), any manufacturer information, and the approximate date of origina-

ONE OF THE MOST
WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT A
FAMILY HEIRLOOM IS SEEING HOW IT
TIES GENERATIONS TOGETHER.

important (e.g., graduation or wedding). Document any stories or information you gather. For pieces that have been handed down for generations, it is important to document the various stories surrounding each family member who owned the piece. Often, uncovering stories like these can uncover family ties that were not previously apparent.

One of the most wonderful things about a family heirloom is learning how it ties generations together. Documenting these connections will be important as you pass the piece on to the next generation. You might also be surprised how this kind of legacy can ignite interest in family members who previously had no interest in family history.

Next, it is wise to photograph the piece from as many different angles as possible. If it has a manufacturer's mark or engraving, make sure you have these markings recorded with a photograph as well. You might also want to phototion. Once you have an appraisal, you can do more research on the time period, craftsman or designer, and the societal values associated with the time the piece was created.

Now, store the item either with the history you have gathered, or with a clear reference to the history. If the piece is still being worn and sits in a jewelry box on its days off, create a fabric pouch that contains a reference to where the history resides.

CREATING A FAMILY HEIRLOOM

If you are thinking of giving an important gift to a family member and would like to see it passed down for future generations, the following tips will help you turn your gift into a family heirloom.

Buy quality. If you want the piece to last *and* to have sentimental value, buy the best-quality product. If you can't

MARKS OF POPULAR MANUFACTURERS AND DESIGNERS FOUND ON JEWELRY

Chanel CHANEL









BUY THE BEST-QUALITY PRODUCT. THE BETTER THE QUALITY, THE MORE LIKELY THE PIECE WILL BE HANDED DOWN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY.

afford diamonds and gold, try just gold or semi-precious stones. The better the quality, the more likely the piece will last and be handed down for future generations to enjoy.

Engrave whenever possible. Engraving can leave important genealogical information for the next generation. Watches are particularly good for this kind of sentiment. Engraving should include at least the initials of the party or

CLEANING AND STORING JEWELRY

Depending on what your jewelry is made of and how old it is will determine how you should clean it. Pieces made of precious gems with hardness at the top of the scale (e.g., diamonds, rubies, sapphires) can typically be cleaned with a more abrasive solution or buffer. If you don't want to spend a lot on solutions, toothpaste works great as a cleaner of harder stones.

Keep in mind that if hard stones are set with any stones that are softer (such as pearls), they should not be cleaned with any kind of solution or abrasive. Softer stones and non-precious metals should be cleaned with a soft jewelry cloth. These cloths contain a mild polish that will make any piece beautiful without scratching or discoloring more porous stones or plated metals. For encrusted dirt that a polishing cloth won't budge, warm water, mild soap, and a soft cloth or extra soft children's tooth-brush will clean without damaging the piece.

Remember, when cleaning any piece of jewelry, never work over an open drain. Use a bowl of warm water instead. If you want to run water over an item, make sure you plug the drain to stop a wayward stone.

If you plan to wear the heirloom jewelry on a nice night out, be sure you to put on your perfume and hair spray before you put on the jewelry. Many materials (like turquoise and pearls) are porous and can be discolored or even damaged by cosmetics.

Also, store your jewelry so other pieces won't rub against them. Items of different softness that rub against each other can scratch and damage one another. For example, turquoise or opals, which are relatively soft, can easily scratch if they are jostled next to rubies or sapphires.

parties involved, some kind of sentiment, and the date, if there is space on the piece. Keep in mind that if the recipient has particularly acidic skin, you may want to have the jeweler engrave in a place where the letter will not be in direct contact with skin (like inside the watch case, rather than on the back). Just make sure the recipient knows it's there.

Document. Because the recipient of the gift may not take the time to photograph and document it, take it upon yourself to do so. Once it has been documented, chances are higher that the gift will be handed down for future genera-

tions to enjoy. If there is any associated documentation that belongs with the piece, include it with the gift. Many jewelry artists may not stamp their piece with a mark, but they will include a signed card with the item. Make sure that you inform the recipient if this kind of documentation is included.

Style. Choose a distinctive style. It should be representative of an era or of the personality of the individual. For example, give a Mickey Mouse lover a gold engraved Mickey Mouse watch, or a native of New Mexico a turquoise squash blossom necklace. I am most grateful that my mother saved the pink rhinestone necklace and earring set that she were on her wedding

day in 1955. Colored rhinestone sets are one of the styles most indicative of the 1950s, and they connect me to this time in my parents' lives in a way nothing else can.

Even if your heirloom jewelry box doesn't hold documents of life events, it undoubtedly holds timeless clues to places, events, family ties, and even the personality of your female ancestor. Hopefully, these items will be treasured in your family for many generations to come. §

Kristen Dame Knight has been involved in the jewelry business for the past twelve years. She now has her own business designing and selling custom jewelry.

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The Hory of







n 1880, my great-great-grandmother Anna Louisa Anderson, her husband Anders, and their two children immigrated to the United States from Sweden. Anders was a shoemaker who earned two dollars a week. Anna bore fourteen children, four of whom died in infancy. When she was seventy, Anna fell and broke her hip, which left her bedridden for the last five years of her life. A woman of industry, she nevertheless found ways to keep busy, quilting and making rag rugs as well as patching clothes for the family, all from her bed. Her daughter Alice, my great-grandmother, cared for her while raising her own family of seven children and helping her husband with the farm.

It is with a kind of
fear that I begin
to write the history
of my life.

First line in Helen Keller's

The Story of My Life

Iwas born a slave on a plantation in Franklin County, Virginia.

First line in *Up from Slavery* by Booker T. Washington

I know all this because Alice took advantage of her mother's presence in her home to write her mother's personal history as well as her own. Both handwritten documents are barely ten pages long. Like many children of her era, Alice left school after only a few years of school to work so her writing skills were not extraordinary. With the

demands on her time, she could have left these histories unwritten. How glad I am that she didn't.

Wouldn't you like to find ten pages of personal history from one or more of your ancestors? Do you have questions about your family history that



Websites to Get You Started

Personal History Help www.personalhistoryhelp.com

Writing Your Personal History: Suggestions and Considerations www.pgsa.org/writing.htm

Writing Your Personal History http://nchaven.com/scrapcorner/TipsIdeas/ personalhistory.html

How Do I ... Write a Family History www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfaol/reunion/WriteHist.htm

Dear Myrtle: Writing Your Personal History www.dearmyrtle.com/lessons.htm

might have been answered by a written record of their life? If our ancestors didn't write their stories, we can't change that fact. But we can all leave a record that will be treasured by our families in the future.

Start Small

Most people spend five to ten minutes every day standing in lines, waiting at red lights, having their oil changed. Consider that in those ten minutes you could write half a page. Twice a week would give you one page. With fifty-two weeks in the year, you could have more than fifty pages written of your life story.

My father, who is in his mid-seventies, is currently writing his personal history one memory at a time. He types a page or so on his computer every week. Whenever I talk to him, I ask him questions about his life, his stint in the military, his college years, and so on, partly for my own benefit and partly to keep his memories churning.

If you're comfortable with a computer, try typing a page, or even a paragraph, every day. You might even try one of the numerous software packages available for writing your personal history. If you're not comfortable with a computer, buy a small notebook that you can carry with you. Write a few sentences or jot down whatever ideas come to you throughout the day: your second-grade teacher, your dog Howard, your mother's mouth-watering scones, your trips to the mountain with your cousins, the summer you broke your arm playing football.

It's all right if you start with just a fragment of memory. Don't worry that you can't remember more. When you start writing your stories, chances are you'll remember other stories and then dozens more after that.

"Sometimes people are reluctant to start writing because they can't remember something," says Charley Kempthorne, author of For All Time: A Complete Guide to Writing Your Family History. "It's a shame we can't remember everything we want to when we want to ... [but] the simple act of writing can make memories come. It's a bit of a paradox to try to write about something that you don't remember, but a single image can lead to another image, then to another, and so on" (p. 21).

Get It Down on Paper

Lois Daniel, author of *How to Write Your Own Life Story*, suggests that you begin with two notebooks. (Her ideas can be readily adapted for use with computers.) One notebook is your "memory bank," where you write various memories and details of your life as they come to mind. "These facts," she promises, "will gather 'interest' just like a savings account." As you read over your notes, you will remember

other details and stories, some similar, some very different, from the memory that sparked them. Write these down, too. Don't be surprised when the memories come even faster than you can write them.

As your memories from the first notebook expand and grow, start writing stories in your second notebook using the notes and ideas from the first notebook. You can begin your story at your birth and proceed chronologically if you'd like. Or just write whatever story comes to mind. Write one event per page, skipping every other line, in case you remember other details you want to add later. Add a date or timeframe. Later, you may want to put these pages in chronological order in a 3-ring binder and fill in the gaps between the stories as other memories come to your mind.

Another option is to use 3 x 5 cards to write the events of your life. Give dates where possible, and the name of schools attended, teachers and other individuals of significance, pets, vacations, etc. You can always add more cards. Now put them in order. From here you can write or type them up, adding to them as your memories flourish and expand.

According to Terrie Lynn Bittner, author of Writing Your Personal and Family History, "If you set aside an hour every Sunday to work on it, you will find your mind will soon start to generate memories through the week. On Sunday, you need only pick one out. Write about that event in your life. Don't worry about getting things written in order. If you write about an event that feels vivid or meaningful that day, you will do a better job of it."

Or perhaps you would rather begin by writing a brief summary of your life as it is right now. Then the next time you sit down to write, you might decide to write about how you chose your career or how you felt when you moved into your new home. Next, you might want to describe your wedding day, the birth of your children, or a goal you had when you were younger. Each topic you write about will connect to an earlier event or a similar feeling.

My mother was one of the most beautiful women I have ever seen.

> First line in Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt





Four generation photo of the author's female ancestors, ca 1929. Alice Anderson Baugh, who wrote a ten-page history of her mother, is standing at right. Anna Louisa Anderson, the subject of the history, is seated with her great-granddaughter Arleen Beatrice Burnham (the author's mother) on her lap.

The Options Are Limitless

If you've put off writing your personal history because it's so intimidating and so large a task, take heart. There are many ways to put together your life story. You may simply choose to begin as my great-great-grandmother Anna did, "I was born ..." and then write what happened next, and then next. She went on to describe her schoolroom, her teacher, and her daily lunch, which "consisted of a piece of salt herring, cold potatoes, rye bread and a small bucket of milk."

Then she described the bread in detail. "The rye bread was called 'Kuekebrod' and made like a pancake that was about eighteen inches in diameter, one fourth inch thick, and a circular hole in the center about three inches in diameter. After this 'Kuekebrod' was baked, it was strung on poles about twelve feet long and put in the attic for future use. Two or three bakings would generally last a year. It was no trouble for a native to eat this bread, but almost impossible for one who has eaten soft bread all his life." (From *Life Narrative of Mrs. Louise Anderson*)

Books to Get You Started

Some books on personal history writing offer ideas and encouragement. Other books provide lists of questions that you can answer to create pieces of personal history that you can then weave together into a complete story, if you wish.

There are also fill-in books with questions and space to write your answers. These books are designed

as gift books to give to others to write their story, or you can use them yourself and then pass the completed book onto your children.

Two books with lots of questions are Patricia Ann Case's How to Write Your Autobiography: Preserving Your Family Heritage (Woodbridge Press Publishing Co., 1977) and Bob Greene and D. G. Fulford's To Our Children's Children: Preserving Family Histories for Generations to Come (Doubleday, 1993).

Two books that allow you to answer questions by simply filling in the blank are Carl and David Marshall's Book of Myself. (Hyperion, 1997) and Your Story: A Guided Interview Through Your Personal and Family History (Gift to the Future, 2000). The latter book is acid-free, archival quality.

You may also choose one of the specialized fill-in books, especially designed for fathers, mothers, and grandparents, such as *Grandmother Remembers: A Written Heirloom for My Grandchild* by Judith Levy, Judy Pelikan (Stewart, Tabori, & Chang, 1983).

Other specialized books include *Christmas Memories: A Keepsake Book from the Heart of the Home* by Susan Branch (Little Brown & Co., 2001), which covers five years with space for cards, letters to Santa, written traditions, recipes, decorations, stories, and photos.

There are also many how-to books on writing your personal and family history. Here are just a few to get you started:

For All Time: A Complete Guide to Writing Your Family History, by Charley Kempthorne (Heinemann, 1996). Lots of good ideas.

How to Write Your Own Life Story: The Classic Guide for the Nonprofessional Writer by Lois Daniel (Chicago Review Press, 1997). Encouraging and practical.

Producing a Quality Family History, by Patricia L. Hatcher (Ancestry, 1996). Everything you need to know.



If you're not comfortable with your writing ability, consider Alice with her third grade education, or Anna, who spoke English as a second language. Like her, you may feel more comfortable recruiting help in telling your story. In fact, regardless of your comfort level in writing your story, working with a partner has many benefits. In swapping stories, your memories will become even more alive. You may want to work closely with a sibling who shared many of the same life experiences in childhood or a close childhood friend. Two people working toward the same goal will help divide the work and will keep each other motivated and on target.

You can even tape record the stories you share with one another, then type them up. You may even want to label the tape cassettes and keep them for your grandchildren. After all, wouldn't you be interested in hearing your great-grandfather's or grandmother's voice? Some time in the future, your children and grandchildren will be thrilled to

On Friday, June

12th, Iwoke up at

six o'clock and no

wonder; it was my

birthday.

First line in Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

have your voice on tape.

"You don't have to be a great writer to create a fascinating personal history," wrote Terri Lynn Bittner. "Remember that you have an audience that has come prepared to love you. What they will want from this history is a sense not only of what you did, but of who you are."

My parents' paths

first crossed in a

museum on 23rd

Street in New York.

First line in Katherine Graham's Personal History

If you're still not convinced that you can write a page or even a half a page, you may find writing lists more to your liking. A list also has a story to tell, and it's very simple to do. Write a list of favorite vacation spots, jobs, teachers, television or radio programs, old girlfriends or boyfriends. You may even want to add a brief description of each one while it's fresh in your mind. Or you may want to return to your list later and add a few more details, after your subconscious has dwelt on these memories for a while.

Just remember: you don't need to write your entire life all in one day, and your descendants won't be demanding perfection of you. They will be happy with whatever you leave them—ten pages, a hundred pages, or a list of favorite things.

Begin Right Now

For now, begin with the basic structure. Start with you and tell where and when you were born. Now tell a little about your parents. Later you may want to write about your parents' lives in greater detail. A concise personal history might describe a few of your childhood memories, your school days, your friends, favorite toys, pets, or it may simply tell where you grew up and what work your father did.

The next part of your life story may discuss work, dating, courtship, marriage, your children, some significant events of family life. If you have children, write about them, give their names, birth dates and places, and their talents and

abilities. Include changes in your life due to retirement, relocation, career changes, etc.

Remember that a personal history can be more than your own written word. Put your photographs in chronological order and label them. Compile your letters to and from family and friends (keep copies of your own, or ask your friends to return yours for this purpose). Ask everyone in the family to gather, or visit them individually, and using a tape recorder, record their memories as well as the events in their present lives.

Your Legacy to Future Generations

My great-grandmother Alice Anderson Baugh died eleven months after I was born. Perhaps she held me in her arms and I looked up into the blue eyes that evidenced her Swedish heritage. Of course I didn't know then that I was in the presence of a great woman, one who had milked cows and made butter, who cooked on a coal stove, who nursed children through scarlet fever and whooping cough, who endured the death of a child at six weeks, the death of a son when he was twenty-one years old, and her husband fifteen years before her own death. For four years she worked in a hospital for war veterans, where men had lost arms, legs, sight, hope. We share a common experience in caring for our mothers who were both bedridden the last five years of their life. All this I learned from her ten-page personal history—one that I will treasure always. 🚱

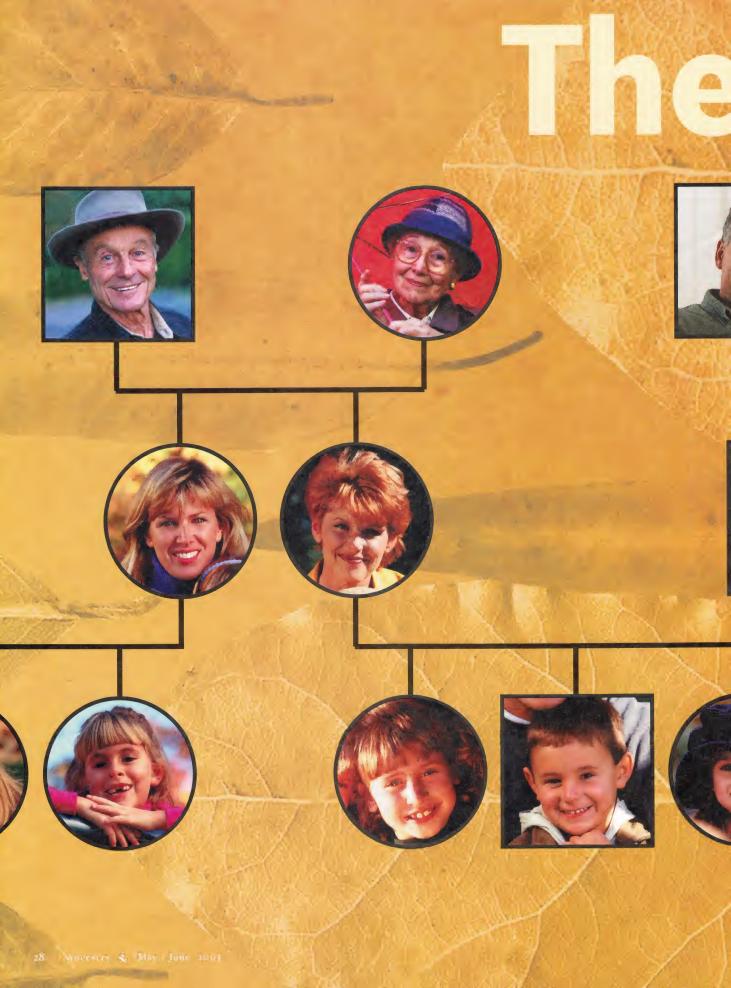
Valerie Holladay, a contributing editor of Ancestry Magazine, began writing stories about her family fifteen years ago after taking a family history writing class during graduate school.

I was born to be a

point guard, but not

a very good one.

First line in Pat Conroy's My Losing Season



Genogram



A

Great
Way to
Track

s you already know, keeping track of direct ancestors or descendants from just one pair of ancestors can be a challenge. But how do you track multiple ancestral pairs and all their brothers and sisters as well as their children and grandchildren? Because it can be complicated to do just that, it is easy to avoid looking at those collateral lines and to focus mostly on direct lines. Doing so, though, means you are probably missing a good number of clues and certainly details about the family.

The importance of collateral line research can't be emphasized enough.

Collateral Lines

by Alice Eichholz, Ph.D., CG



Collateral line research often provides the solution to a problem in your direct-line research. For example, suppose you can't find out the original home for your Irish ancestor. You have searched all the census, immigration, naturalization, and vital records for him and his immediate family (parents, siblings, and children). But you haven't checked the records of the ancestor's uncle who immigrated at an earlier date. The county or town you are seeking may have been recorded in the uncle's immigration, naturalization, or vital records.

Or, suppose a particular family learned that some land an ancestor held was very valuable. The ancestor had sold the land rights, but had never released the water or mineral rights to the land. As a result, the family assumed that since it shared the same surname through male descent from the original land owner, it should inherit the mineral rights. But the descendant of one of that ancestor's daughters learned about the mineral rights, too, and because her descendants carried different surnames, they didn't know if they were legally eligible to share the mineral rights. Tracking generations of the collateral lines makes it visibly clear that the daughter's living descendants were a generation closer to the original ancestor and, therefore, entitled to the mineral rights. By plotting out all the collateral lines the rightful heirs become clear.

I have found Bible records, pictures, biographies in county histories, wills, land records, vital records and any number of important records belonging to people in collateral lines that not only unlocked several mysteries, but opened up whole new avenues of inquiry. But how do you easily

keep track of all those collateral ancestors to make it possible to focus on them and not just your direct ancestors?

Genograms

A genogram is a way of drawing a family tree that represents not only the parental or direct lines of descendants but all collateral lines as well. Genograms can record significant life events, individual characteristics, occupations, education, and emotional relationships—all to provide a more complete understanding of the context within which an event arises in a family. Focusing on the facts in a family, such as who, what, when, where, and how, has been shown to provide important, meaningful information that helps to distinguish each family member as part of a larger picture.

The behavioral theory behind a genogram is that everyone is a product of his or her family's history. The way a family communicates and behaves toward significant life events—emigration, adoption, illness, births, marriages, deaths, etc.—can help us understand the family's attitudes and behaviors. Genograms provide a deeper and more humbling way of looking at a family's history.

Drawing a Genogram

It takes a while to get oriented to the genogram's symbols, but once you start using them to understand a family, you will automatically begin to see patterns emerge that can provide clues for your research. There are some computer programs that will draw genograms using at least part of your genealogical database information, but it is best to start with a pencil and large sheet of plain white paper,

allowing plenty of room. The more uncrowded the genogram is, the more visual understanding of the family patterns you will have. (For the purposes of this article, we will not go beyond four generations.)

The skeleton of the genogram uses conventional symbols from the field of genetics. Males are identified by squares and, in a marital pair, are placed to the left of females, who are identified by circles. A marital pair or reproducing couple is connected by a line. Offspring are denoted by extending vertical lines below the line that joins the couple, with birth order from first to last going left to right. Twins are represented by adjoining lines; adoptions by dotted lines; and stillbirths with a small filled-in circle or square (depending on gender).

To begin, place the couple in their birth families by drawing in their siblings, and then place parents of the previous generation vertically above their children.

Previous generations should be added vertically in severabove the grandparents, and newer generations should be placed below the children in the present generation.

People who are no longer living are shown with an x across their symbol. Hypotheses about origins or missing information can be entered with question marks.

The Scots

The next step is to put in some details. Include names; dates for birth, marriage, and divorce; major life events; and

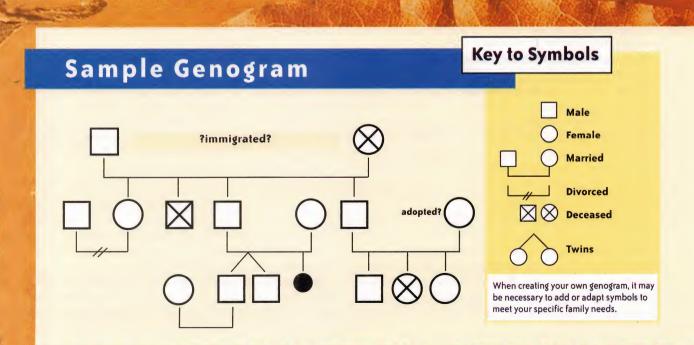
age of person at present time. These details will help to determine family patterns that will provide clues to new resources and even solve difficult research problems.

Using Genograms in Family Research

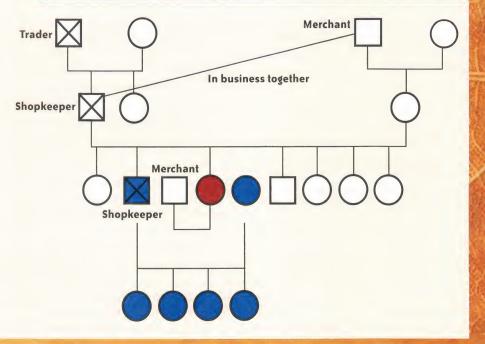
When I start working on a research question, I sketch out a quick genogram. It forces me to think broadly about the family and provides a more comprehensive research strategy so more clues A genogram is a will become available. Some great clues can come when you watch for naming way of drawing a family patterns in the family and dates of tree that represents not key life events as well as trends in occupation, migration/immigration, only the parental or direct religion, financial resources, land ownership, illnesses, family size and lines of descendants but constellation, to suggest a few.

Some cultures, for example, have particular naming patterns. Placing the given names on a genogram can help you see naming patterns and if you see it operating in several previous generations, it should be a clue for additional previous generations. In some families, repetitive names occur not only within the descendants of a couple and their siblings, but in previous generations before the couple even knew each other.

The Scots-Irish naming pattern gives the firstborn son the name of the paternal grandfather, the second-born the name of the maternal grandfather, the third, the name of the



Genogram of Merchant Case



father. The same pattern occurs in the female lines. So when you are searching for a possible father of Samuel Miller (a very common name) who has sons James, Hugh, and Samuel, in that order, you might look for a James Miller as Samuel's father, and a father-in-law named Hugh.

Every family researcher knows that dates are one of the important building blocks for establishing ancestry, but they can also become important for learning more about a family's reaction to an individual event. For example, it was common for families to migrate following the death of the last member of the grandparent generation. If, in going backward to trace a family, you find a family in a new location, you might expect to find a death record for the grandparents right before the migration.

families. Occupations become important ways of realizing the different interests, talents, successes, failures, and varied socioeconomic statuses found within families. For genealogical purposes, they provide clues to research as well. In my own research, the work of one family began with only the name of the parents, occupation of the father, and names and dates of birth of

four daughters (family in blue). Research on this family had been confused by two different families whose heads were both named Joseph Bean. In the end, the clue to unlocking the mystery came from Joseph M. Bean's sister, Mary S. (Bean) Green (in red), whose husband was merchant and whose descendants left behind more information to determine the right connections than her brother's daughters knew. By watching the occupations on both sides of the family, seeing the relationship between a father-in-law and a son-inlaw, it was possible to weed through all the males with similar names and focus on the only one who was also a shopkeeper. That makes three generations of males who had the same occupa-

tion. The female lines lived longer and their surnames changed, but they carried with them enough details about the family's ancestry to use basic research techniques in land and probate records to solve the research problem. If the focus had stayed on the male lines, the problem would

become important

ways of realizing the

statuses found within

have constantly hit a road block, but following the other lines made it possible to see the broader relationships in the family. Occupations

Tracing Behavioral Patterns

The next layer of work with a

genogram involves determining the pattern of emotional responses a pardifferent interests, talents, ticular family has. For example, does a family "stick together" or "cast out" and varied socioeconomic its members? How does the family respond to stresses of life events? What can we learn from that information to further the search? The following example will illustrate the emotional responses of a family and, hopefully, provide some new ways to think about research in your own family.

> My maternal grandfather was a very charismatic person. He was highly educated, an activist in women's suffrage and the first teacher's union, and raised all four of his children

alone after his wife died. My sister, brother, and I hold his life as a model against which we have measured ours, even though he died before we were born. Yet, two of this esteemed grandfather's siblings, a sister and half-brother, became estranged from the family. This seemed an especially important observation since Grandfather, who moved East for college and stayed there, maintained a very close relationship with his eldest sister who moved west to Oregon with the rest of the family.

Before Grandfather died, he wrote a letter to my mother with some very sketchy clues about his "estranged" sister and "wayward" half-brother, wistfully wondering what happened to them. A couple of years ago I decided to track down these missing relatives. My sister and I were dealing with our daughters issuing predictably adolescent threats to "run away from home," so it seemed important to understand how our grandfather lost track of two siblings.

Using a genogram, I mapped out the family to keep track of the people I needed to find in my research. I found several people via the Internet who were willing to assist me in some on-site research in Oregon. Within a few weeks, using the vital records index, city directories, and newspaper indexes, we located information on the half-brother. His story was not a happy one. After being convicted of several small felonies, he was jailed in federal prison in Washington for ten years for forging a twenty-two dollar welfare check. He returned to Portland, died ten years later on a railroad trestle of undetermined causes, and was buried in an unmarked grave a few blocks from where the family lived in Portland.

The sister, Julia, didn't fare well either, but she took longer to find. Clues about what happened to her came from understanding what happened to her children, who were easier to find. She had two children ten years apart. The youngest one, a daughter, moved back and forth between her divorced parents' households, became a beautician, married at age thirty, but a few years later suffered from mental illness and had to be hospitalized. After being released, she continued her work as a beautician, but was hospitalized again and spent the last thirteen years of her life there. When she died at the age of forty-six, she was buried as a charity case by the Catholic church in Salem, Oregon.

The oldest child, a son, became a businessman and married a couple of times, but had no children. He had a difficult divorce and eventually was hospitalized because of mental problems, too. Seeing these patterns with the children led me to consider similar circumstances for their mother, my great aunt. The patterns were unmistakable.

She, too, had a difficult divorce. A guardian was appointed because of mental problems and a couple, not related to the family, tried to gain control over her income property



provided her in the divorce. A Circuit Court case challenged her right to have a guardian appointed to manage her financial affairs, but it was overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court. In the interim, her income property was apparently lost, and the city directories and census find her maintaining custodial jobs through the 1920s. She moved with her married daughter across the state line into Washington. At the same time her daughter's marriage fell apart, she was hospitalized in the state hospital and died there a few years later.

Using a genogram to follow not only the collateral line information but the behavioral aspects of the family's life led me to hospital, medical examiner, and divorce court records, among other things. They revealed not only what happened to my grandfather's lost siblings, but provided a rich understanding of my family's past.

Every family descends from a diverse group of people. By using genograms, watching for repetitive patterns in a family's emotional life as well as patterns in circumstance and decision making, you have just one more level of understanding with which to find a bridge to the past. Starting with a basic genogram is only the beginning. §

Further Reading

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Alice Eichholz, Ph.D., CG, is the director of Lifelong Learning at Union Institue & University/Vermont College, which sponsors the "Learn Family History Online" program. She is also the editor of Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources (Ancestry, 1992).





RETURNING

Lost Heirlooms

by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak



"What you do is ... an invaluable service to people like myself. All our old family photos were destroyed in a flood when my mother was a girl."

This is only one of the many comments that Marge Rice receives on a regular basis. Marge is a pioneer in the growing contingent of genealogists who have created a hobby of returning heirlooms to their families of origin. To date, she has returned a remarkable 506 photos to 369 people.



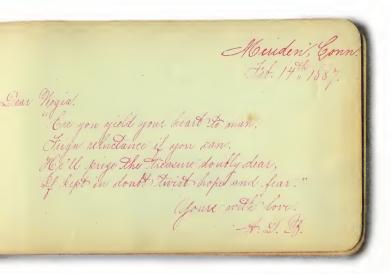






To a member of the "Model Class" of Kamburg academy, 1881.

On Album!- When we gaze on its pages in after years, how many happy recollections crowd on our memories. May this be filled with as many beautiful thoughts from true friends, as your mind is filled with ideal there was blank pages will great the eye no blank pages will great the eye now true friends, the form true friends, barrie & Compbell,



WHO ARE THE RESCUERS?

Marge isn't the only person out there working to return heirlooms to their families of origin. Many generous people use their sleuthing skills (and often their own funds) to bring smiles to the faces of complete strangers. Prowling flea markets, antique shops, and eBay for photos, Bibles, certificates, and other items that have strayed from protective hands, they purchase them and provide temporary homes while they do whatever is necessary to find a descendant who will appreciate them.

There is another cluster of would-be rescuers: the accidental owners. These people have come into possession of some other family's treasure through fluke circumstances. Perhaps they bought a suitcase at a garage sale and found some old letters in it; maybe they bought an old house and found photos tucked away in an attic crevice; I've even heard of an instance when a stranger wandered into a church and donated a 200-year-old Bible.

Having been a participant in this little-known hobby for several years, as well as a researcher for the U.S. Army's Repatriation Project, I have a reasonable success rate with this type of research. Following are some effective tactics and resources to help you return your own orphaned heirlooms to their families of origin.

SELECT RESCUABLE CANDIDATES

Assuming that you intend to proactively look for items to rescue, there are a couple of guidelines to bear in mind. Begin by inspecting any candidates for identifying information. Names, places, and dates are the most critical—and in that order. For this reason, Bibles tend to make a good choice since they often have a generous amount of such information. Photos, by contrast, are usually more challenging since they may only offer a clue or two.

It's true that unusual names are easier to trace than names like Smith and Jones, so if you're new to this hobby, improve your odds by looking for less common names. An 1880 autograph book I recently returned, for instance, belonged to a girl whose last name was Hall, but whose first name was Wegia. As soon as I saw her name, I knew I would be able to find her family.

On pictures, you'll want to look for a photography studio's imprint since it usually furnishes a location. Dates are helpful, but less vital than the other information. I make it a habit to look for items that have at least one name that's less bountiful than John Williams and an indication of place that's other than where I'm doing my browsing. When in Maryland, for



example, I will not purchase photos from Maryland because I don't want to make the effort to find the family, only to return it to the person who sold or tossed it out in the first place.

THE BROADCAST STRATEGY

Let's assume that you now have a family treasure, either by design or by accident, and you think you can find the rightful owner. When locating likely descendants, you have two choices. You can either make it easier for them to find you or you can go find them. I refer to these as the broadcast and seek strategies, respectively.

The broadcast approach is the electronic equivalent of leaving a trail of bread crumbs. Marge Rice has used this approach with great success. It entails sprinkling the Internet with postings at appropriate surname and locality message boards, such as those at Ancestry.com, as well as the growing collection of sites devoted to this purpose. Some of my favorites include:

- Dead Fred www.deadfred.com
- Ancient Faces www.ancientfaces.com
- Your Past Connections www.yourpastconnections.com
- Julia Case's Somebody's Links www.petuniapress.com

For a more comprehensive list of such sites, take a few minutes to peruse the links at <www.honoringourances tors.com/orphanphotos.html>.

THE SEEK STRATEGY

If you're the type that likes detective work, the broadcast strategy may not be your style. Or perhaps you'd like to combine both approaches. When doing the detective work yourself, the following tactics will prove helpful:

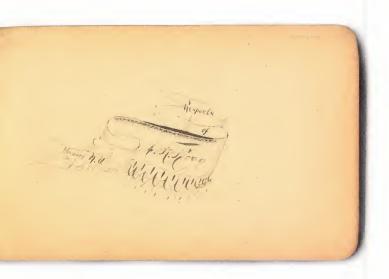
- If you're fortunate enough to have several names to work with, begin your search by focusing on the most recently born, the one with the most unusual name, and/or a male. The youngest person listed is your closest bridge to living descendants, and once again, you'll have more success looking for Elijah Brown than John Brown. Males are easier to follow through the generations because they retain their surnames. So unless it's clear that the item belonged specifically to a woman, start with one of the men instead. If your efforts to find this person fail to produce results, move on to another individual and continue to work your way through the names you have.
- Adopt a surround-and-conquer mentality by using individual names to find additional relatives. Every-name census indexes such as the 1930 (available at Ancestry.com) and the 1880 (available at FamilySearch.org) are especially











useful for finding clusters of names. For instance, perhaps the woman in the photo left no direct descendants, but most of her eight brothers and sisters did.

- When necessary, go backward to come forward. If you identify a candidate in the 1930 census, but he's recently married with no children yet, try to locate him in the 1920 census with his parents and siblings. This will give you additional names to search in the 1930 census.
- Follow the trail left by the deceased to find the living. The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) and online state vital records are some of the most helpful resources for discovering where the family may have resided within the last few decades. Due to dust bowl emigration, for instance, I have found a disproportionate number of descendants in

California, even though their ancestors' heirlooms bear the markings of another state.

- Find a connection and work your way closer to target descendants. If you're intent on returning the item to an elusive direct-line descendant, consider trolling for second and third cousins on the Internet and asking for their help to find members of their extended family. If they don't know how to contact a particular individual, ask them who else in the clan might be able to help.
- Your research results will probably be effective whether you make contact with descendants by e-mail, phone, or snail mail. Especially when contacting them by phone, be sure to share some information about the family before asking questions to ascertain if he or she is the person you're seeking. Many initially suspicious people will relax when they hear you mention Grandpa's birth-place or the names of some of their great-aunts and uncles. And when you tell them about the family treasure in your possession, make it clear whether you intend to give it to them or would like assistance locating a more closely related relative. You'll probably be surprised at how many people will be eager to aid in the rescue.

A LITTLE EXPERIMENT

No two situations are alike, so the resources you use may vary widely. Just remember that these searches can throw unexpected curves at you. For instance, one case I worked on was finally resolved when I realized that I was dealing with a pair of brothers who also happened to be uncle and nephew and had identical names (the younger brother had been adopted by his grandparents who changed his birth name to that of the grandfather even though they already had a son of that name). In this case, the critical clue came from an online obituary for the elder of the two men, which listed his same-name brother as a survivor.

Still, there are certain resources I have used over and over in these quests. The question I couldn't answer, though, was which of these were the most essential to success in rescuing orphans. So I decided to conduct an experiment.

I randomly picked ten cases I had worked on in the past and followed my research trail, noting the resources I had used in each case. Of course, all cases involved the use of multiple resources, and any given tool may have been consulted a dozen times during a single search. To simplify matters, I counted a resource only once for each case in which it contributed to the solution. A convenient hierarchy of results quickly emerged, as can be seen in the accompanying table.



Value of Resources Based on 10 Solved Cases

Rank	Resource	Frequency of Use
1	Every-name census (1930, 1880)	8
2	Online lineage collections	7
3	Online phone directories	6
4	Social Security Death Index	5
5	Online State Vital Records	4
6	Other census indexes	3
7	Search engine	2
8	Other sources (e.g., military, digitized newspapers, etc.)	2

THE BEST RESCUE RESOURCES

The clear-cut superstar is the 1930 every-name census index with the 1880 playing a supporting role. This tool was a factor in eighty percent of the cases examined. The power of being able to search on just the first name (such as Wegia) or to use multiple variables (e.g., state, age, place of birth, etc.) and wildcard spellings to hone in on your target is indisputable. But the true value of the 1930 census derives from its recency. When you find a name there—particularly a child—you're already dealing with someone who may be alive. And if they are deceased, odds are that

they lived long enough to leave a trace in the SSDI. A little lower in the list in sixth place are other online census indexes (e.g., 1920 head-of-household and 1910 Miracode) that may help you flesh out the family tree.

The second most useful tool is the ever-expanding collection of online family trees. By these, I mean the family trees that can be found in such places as the Ancestry World Tree at Ancestry.com or the Ancestral and Pedigree Resource files at FamilySearch.org. While I have found plenty of misinformation in such lineages, orphan heirloom rescuing requires less precision than traditional research, and there is usually enough correct information (especially about recent generations) to lead you to someone in the family today. When I find people I'm looking for in online pedigrees, I contact the individual who uploaded or submitted it. Doing this contributed to seventy percent of the resolutions.

Not surprisingly, online phone directories often provide the last bit of information necessary to make contact, so they placed third in importance. Since approximately thirty-five percent of Americans have unlisted numbers, it makes sense that sixty percent of cases were facilitated with this resource. While I have traditionally used sites such as Whitepages.com, I am curious to experiment with MyFamily.com's new People Finder tool to see if it will improve my hit rate. In the cases where I can't find a phone listing, I often resort to a search engine and enter the surname and suspected current location. In one recent reunion effort, doing so surfaced an article about a policewoman in a local newspaper. She turned out to be the granddaughter of the woman who had originally owned the bridal book in question.







The SSDI and online state vital records indexes are also extremely effective tools. The locations mentioned for last residence and benefit in the SSDI often point me to an area where I will find family members today. If available, I also search state indexes to see if I can obtain additional information such as a spouse's name, a woman's maiden name (to confirm identity), etc. Since the records and years covered vary widely by state, it helps to bookmark a list such as Joe Beine's at .

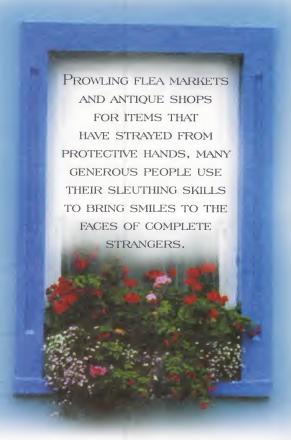
Holding up the rear is a myriad of resources that may be used for specific circumstances. When someone recently asked about a military discharge certificate, it was only logical to look at military records. In a growing number of cases, digi-

tized newspaper records provide clues. County websites at RootsWeb and USGenWeb are also valuable. In one recent case, I not only found the descendants, but was also able to direct them to online cemetery records at a county site that led back to their immigrant Irish ancestor who was born in 1802—a nice bonus!

FINDING WEGIA'S FAMILY

While every case is unique, I thought it might be helpful to conclude with an example, and since I've already mentioned Wegia Hall several times, the journey of her autograph book seems an appropriate tale to share. The story began when I purchased it in an antique store in Vienna, Virginia. From the entries, I could see that Wegia had attended school in New York around 1880 and had traveled to Wisconsin and Illinois during the same decade. Education clearly mattered to her as some of the signatures were in German, Latin, and Greek. Beyond that, her life was a mystery to me.

Since she had presumably been born around the 1860s, I decided to start with the 1880 every-name census index at FamilySearch.org. Unfortunately, Wegia did not readily appear in the census, but I found an *IGI* entry (an apparent locality extraction) for the marriage of a Wegia Hope Hall in 1891. The timing fit, the middle name matched the initial in her book, her birth place was the same town as the location



of her school, and the wedding occurred in Illinois, a place I knew she had been.

Now equipped with her full name—Wegia Hope (Hall) Tracy—I went to the every-name 1930 census to see if I could find her. She appeared in Massachusetts, a widowed sixty-six-year-old with the rather unorthodox occupation of editor for the Vivisection Society. Noting a couple of other hits at Ancestry.com, I discovered from the California death index that she had died in 1944 in Los Angeles. Another click took me to a single family tree that included Wegia (an entry that has since been substantially supplemented). I emailed the gentleman who had uploaded the tree and soon learned that Wegia had died childless, but that two of

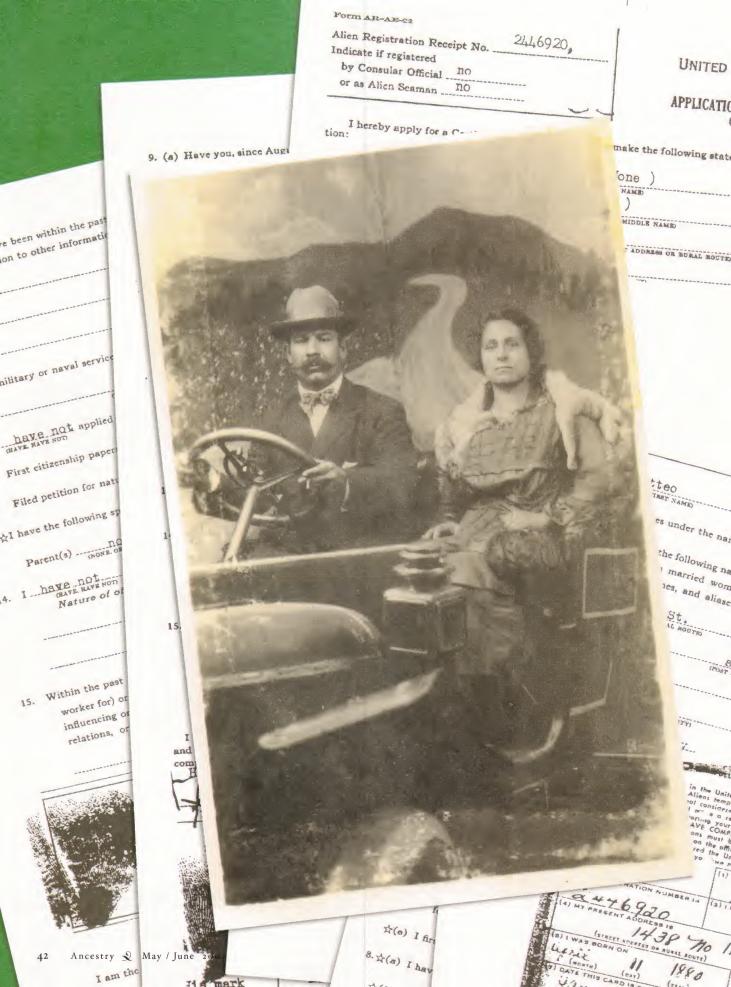
her nephews were alive and interested in their family history.

Timothy, who refers to himself as the great-great-grand-nephew-in-law of Wegia, was the one who had posted the pedigree. He commented, "This experience ... was the result of shared work and would not have succeeded otherwise. My online family tree was just the lightening rod; the unique name Wegia would never have been in there had it not been for her nephews' generous sharing of information. All I had was the 1870 census, where Wegia, as a young child, was named Mary. She had separated from her family after that. It was her nephews, Ed and Harold, who supplied the name that she was known by for the rest of her life. And until just two years ago, my branch of the family had been lost to theirs for seventy years."

He continued, "I think it's just great that the ... autograph book ... is in the possession of close relatives. Better that than a sorry fate of someday showing up on some theme restaurant's wall." I couldn't agree more! §

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, author of Honoring Our Ancestors, In Search of Our Ancestors, and They Came to America, has consulted for and appeared in several television shows, including PBS's 2000 Ancestors series and the Today Show. She can be reached at <www.honoringourances tors.com>.





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Alien Registration Records

by Joseph M. Silinonte

In 1940, some three and a half million resident aliens (immigrants who were never naturalized) were living in the United States. Among them were my grandparents. In 1903, my grandmother Angela Ciaravino Silinonte immigrated to the United States from Castellammare del Golfo in Sicily; my grandfather Giuseppe Silinonte followed her across the ocean in 1904.

Background on Alien Registration

For researchers whose immigrant ancestors were never naturalized, there is an excellent alternative source of information—alien registration records. When the Alien Registration Act of 1940 was passed, alien immigrants across the United States flocked to their local post office to register with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Everyone over the age of fourteen years was fingerprinted. Each individual was given a two-page form to fill out (the AR-2); an additional form (the AR-3) was attached with a perforation. The forms were numbered serially with an Alien Registration Number, or Anumber, which was assigned to the person who filled out the form. The completed forms were then sent to the INS for statistical coding, indexing, and filing. After this, the AR-3, or Alien Registration Receipt Card, was returned to the individual, who was required to carry the card at all times.

The information on all alien immigrants was kept on file by the INS, which by this time was no longer part of the Department of Labor, as it had been previously. In response to Mussolini's declaration of war on France on 10 June 1940, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt transferred immigrant services to the Department of Justice; immigration was now perceived as an issue of national security rather than an economic issue. Three weeks later, on June 28, Congress passed the Alien Registration Act of 1940 (a bill also known as the Smith

At left: 1907 photo of Guiseppe and Angela Ciaravino Silinonte

Act, named for its chief proponent, Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia). When FDR signed the bill into law the next day, he made the following statement, as if sensing the potential problems in such a bill: "It is of the utmost importance to the security of the country that the program of alien control shall be carried out with a high sense of responsibility. It would be unfortunate if, in the course of the regulative program, any loyal alien was subjected to harassment."

Of course, this was not the first time the United States had taken steps of this kind. In 1798, only twenty years after America had obtained its independence from British rule, Congress passed the "Alien Act" that authorized the president to order out of the country all aliens regarded as dangerous. During the First World War, legislation ordered the registration of aliens from nations at war with the United States. Alien immigrants were again required to register after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Of particular interest to the Department of Justice was the registration of aliens of enemy nations, such as Germany, Italy, Japan, Austria, Bulgaria, and Hungary. Alien immigrants were photographed, fingerprinted, and required to list all family members and relatives—in this country and in the old country-indicating any who were in military service in an enemy nation.

Value for Family Historians

All of this activity was intended to serve the United States and provide potentially important information, but it has unquestionable value to family historians as well. According to the Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act, copies of these records may be requested for personal use. Early registrations are on microfilm at INS (July 1940 to April 1944, including A-numbers below 12,000,000), and are searchable by name, date of birth, and place of birth.

Since conducting my own search, INS services have been integrated into the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under the Bureau of Citizenship & Immigration Services (BCIS). Copies of your ancestor's Alien Registration Files (or A-Files) may be obtained by submitting a completed G-639 form, Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Request, which can be downloaded at <www.immigration.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/g-639.htm>. A search for "Alien Registration Records, 1940-44" on the BCIS website (listed above) will also take you to the correct screen.

As with any government inquiry made for genealogical purposes, patience is a virtue. I sent in my application in October 2000 and received my grandmother's file seven months later in May 2001. It took another nine months (sixteen months in all) before I received my grandfather's file, but it was worth the wait. His file contained 152 pages!

From these files I learned that in February 1942 my grandparents Giuseppe and Angela Ciaravino Silinonte registered for their identification cards/booklets as aliens of enemy nations under the presidential proclamation for Italian aliens (Proclamation #2527). I have their original booklets containing the number of months and years in the country, their photographs, fingerprints, statistics on height and weight, and address. The identification card is about the size of a passport and contains several pages.

My grandmother's file contains the forms she filled out in 1940 and again in 1942, as well as the names, addresses, and relationships for seventeen members of her family. In addition to her husband and children, she listed her mother, sisters, and brothers in various parts of New York State. My grandfather's file was no less informative.

One of the first pages in his file was a copy of an indictment against him for Second Degree Grand Larceny from May 1915. It stated that on 13 April 1915 Giuseppe had bought stolen merchandise: one black mare, wagon, and harness that belonged to one Cornelius Bergen. My grandfather told Judge Robert H. Roy that he didn't know the horse was stolen when he bought it, but a Kings County (Brooklyn) jury found him guilty and Judge Roy sentenced him to one year in the New York County Penitentiary. He was released after ten months due to good behavior.

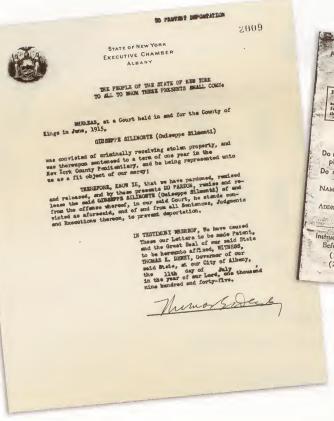
In 1933 he traveled to Canada and had some difficulty when he re-entered the United States. Although he had arrived at Ellis Island on 25 March 1904, he had no proof

Requesting a File

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests should be directed to the Immigration Office that maintains the records sought, if known, or to the Immigration Field Office nearest your place of residence. You will receive a letter from the INS giving you a control number. In all future correspondence, either by writing or telephone, be sure to include this control number. A list of state offices and their addresses can be viewed at <www.immigration.gov/graphics/aboutus/foia/ADDRE SS.HTM>.

Identify the immigrant by name, date of birth, and place of birth, and ask for the entire file. Residence in 1940 (the name of city or town will usually suffice) would also be helpful.

Usually there is no fee unless there is an extremely large amount of paper to be photocopied. (There was no charge for my grandfather's 152-page file.) A sample registration form can also be viewed at <www.immigration.gov/graphics/aboutus/history/lmmRecs/AlReg.html>.





Left: Pardon by Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York "To Prevent Deportation" for Giuseppe Silinonte, 1945. Right: Front page of Giuseppe Silinonte's Enemy Alien Registration booklet, 1942.

that he was a legal alien. Apparently he was able to enter the United States, but in 1940, this issue came up again during the Alien Registration process. If the INS could prove that Giuseppe had entered the country illegally after being convicted of a felony (the horse episode in 1915), he could be deported back to Sicily. For seven years deportation hearings were conducted off and on; Grandfather's INS file held these transcripts.

During a deportation hearing at Ellis Island on 9 April 1941, the following exchange took place between my grandfather and an INS officer:

INS: How old are you and when and where were you born?

Giuseppe: Fifty-five years old, born May 21, 1885, at Castellammare del Golfo, Province of Trapani, Italy.

INS: What was your father's name and where was he born? Giuseppe: I was a foundling and was adopted by my foster parents when I was three days old. The surname Selinunte was given by the Municipality.

INS: Did you continue to use the name Giuseppe Selinonte after your adoption?

Giuseppe: I did not know that Silmonte was my name until I applied for a passport to come to the U.S. and

after that I used that name. I was always under the impression that my name was Giuseppe Di Girolamo.

INS: What were your foster parents names?

Giuseppe: My foster father's name was Stefano di Girolamo and his wife's name was Francesca Fontaro.

On 11 July 1945, New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey signed a pardon for my grandfather, wiping the 1915 felony conviction from his record. The INS finally found his correct arrival date on Ellis Island (Grandpa had been giving them the wrong year), which at last gave him status as a legal resident alien. Had I not sent for his INS file containing this transcript, I would never have known any of this. As an additional bonus, the transcripts offered some variant spellings of the name Silinonte, which gave me something to consider in my future searches for this family.

My grandfather died on 28 March 1964, two months before his seventy-ninth birthday. I am glad his record was cleared, but I am equally happy to have a horse thief in my family, the kind of "colorful" ancestor that most genealogists and family historians would love to claim! Perhaps one of your ancestors has a file being held by the INS. If so, you may make some interesting discoveries of your own. §

Joseph M. Silinonte has been engaged in New York City genealogical research since 1980. He is the author of Tombstones of the Irish-born, Cemetery of the Holy Cross, Flatbush, Brooklyn, Bishop Loughlin's Dispensations, Diocese of Brooklyn, 1859-1866, Vol. I, and Street Index to the 1892 New York State Census, City of Brooklyn.



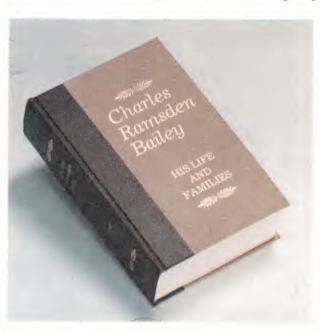
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Back to Basics

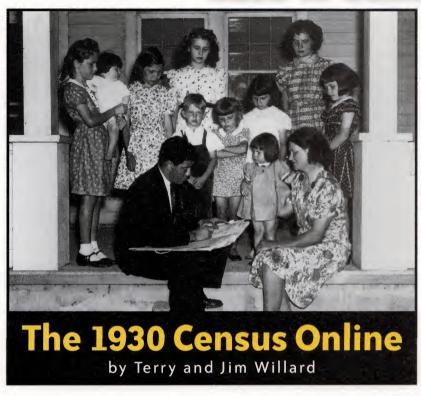
n the past, census records have provided genealogists with a great deal of useful informationnames of family members and their ages, immigration and naturalization dates and places, occupation, and financial worth. Public access to such records, however, is granted only after seventy-two years have elapsed. For this reason, we both eagerly awaited the release of the 1930 census. (The Privacy Rights Act protects all federal records for a period of seventy-two years. This means the information contained in any such record is private and may only be accessed by the individual named in the record. For that reason, the 1930 census records were not released to the public until 2002.)

We knew from past experience that using the census wouldn't be quick and easy, we were prepared to invest a substantial amount of time in the search for our family. After all, using census records has always meant a painstaking and tedious search to find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Census Research in the Past

For every census up until now, a census search began with a search for the address of the individual you were looking for. If you didn't have the address, you could perhaps find it in a city directory. Directories were published annually or semi-annually for most major cities, and many could be found at local libraries and historical societies. They could also be viewed on microfilm or microfiche from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and associated Family History Centers worldwide. In addition, many directories are available on CD-ROM or on microfilm from private vendors.

An address was necessary in order to locate the enumeration district (ED) in which the individual or family lived, and finding the enumeration



district was the most challenging aspect of using the 1930 census. Because of the difficulty of this step, the National Archives has offered several publications to assist researchers in this arduous and time-consuming undertaking.

After finding the enumeration district, the family historian would next locate a branch of the National Archives, a local Family History Center, or a large public library to gain access to the census data on microfilm.

Once the microfilm was obtained, a researcher would load the microfilm and advance to the correct enumeration district. From there, you needed to read page by page until you found the address and then the family you were looking for. When the information was discovered, the page could be photocopied or the information entered onto a 1930 census research template. It could also be entered directly onto a family group sheet or data collection sheet.

While it is exciting to see your ancestor's name in print (even if it wasn't his or her own handwriting), using the census required a lot of time and patience. Fortunately, that's no longer the case. Thanks to Ancestry.com and the 1930 census images and the accompanying everyname index on its website, a census search doesn't have to mean hours hunched over a microfilm reader at the local library or family history center.

The Census Online

The 1930 Census offers some interesting information that is well worth having: the name of each person at a particular address, the relationship of each person to the head of household, if home was owned or rented, value of home, whether the family owned a radio set, sex, color, race, age at last birthday, marital status, age at first marriage, schooling, literacy, place of birth for person and person's parents, language spoken in home, year of

immigration, year of naturalization, and trade or profession. Since the 1930 census wasn't available when we did our original research on our parents and grandparents, we looked forward to examining these records.

Before we turned to the 1930 census, though, we wanted to review our own personal data thoroughly, enter new information for recent events, and verify our documentation for earlier events. If we encountered any unsubstantiated research, we would note that entry on a follow-up list for a future research trip. If we encountered such a gap, we entered the possibility on our research objective sheet for that person.

At first, this method of re-examining our data seemed a daunting task. But as we developed an organized and consistent approach, we found it relatively easy to review what was there, verify that it had been accurately doc-

umented, and note possible future research objectives.

At last we were ready to examine the 1930 census. As subscribers to Ancestry.com, we had access to the

Thanks to the
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online 1930 census index and images, and we both looked forward to seeing if our online census search would be an improvement over the methods we had used in the past. With a sense of anticipation, we connected to the Internet and went to the Ancestry.com website. We easily located the link to the online census records and clicked on it.

Found only at Ancestry.com, the online 1930 census records are available by subscription, and users can choose a number of different packages containing different resources. Subscribing to Ancestry.com is very easy to do, and once you are a subscriber, you simply follow the links on the screen to the 1930 census data screen. Once there, just type the name and other identifying information for the person you are researching in the 1930 census into the appropriate fields on the screen and click on the Search button. As with any search, you can often find more potential information by giving fewer identifiers.

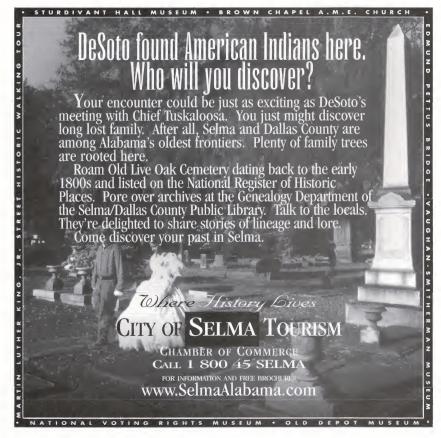
The search engine may give you several possible matches, and it is a simple matter to investigate them further on the census itself to check other verifying details. Each name is linked to the census sheet it appears on so all the information you need is right at your fingertips. Just click on the link and the census sheet will appear on your screen. All this can be done while you are sitting in your den sipping hot chocolate, a comfortable change from your library or local family history center.

But using the new every-name index for the 1930 census, we found our ancestors—all eight of our grand-parents and all four of our parents—with a few simple keystrokes. Searching the census has never been so quick, so easy, or so much fun.

A Few Tips

As we began using the census data at Ancestry.com, we found some techniques that made our searches more effective.

1. It's worth it to take a few minutes to download the Advanced Ancestry





Enumeration began on April 1, 1930.

Enumerators numbered 87,756 and were paid a total of \$40 million.

The official population count was 123,202,624 (Actual names enumerated was 137,008,435).

Soundex exists for Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and certain counties in Kentucky and West Virginia.

Image Viewer. It enhances your research experience while you are looking at your computer's display screen.

- 2. Choosing "Soundex" rather than "Exact Spelling" for searching surnames will locate additional names that are not spelled as you've spelled your ancestor's name but that "sound like" the one you are searching. (Soundex is based on the phonetic spellings of names). This is especially useful for those of us who have immigrant family members whose names were misspelled in the census.
- 3. Because Soundex does not work on first names or given names, the "wildcard" search feature can help you if you don't locate the individual you seek on the initial search. For example, Terry's father's name is Marcel Cloutier. When we entered his name in the search fields (even using the county, town, and state fields), the search returned "no records found." However, when we entered his first name as Mar*, the search yielded fifty-

three results. One of these was the record we were searching for. Terry's father had been indexed as Mariel rather than Marcel.

We also encountered this situation in searching for both of our maternal grandmothers. The wildcard feature only works after you enter at least the first three letters of the person's first name, so we could enter Mar* but not M* or Ma*.

- 4. Once you have located the appropriate page of the census, the buttons on the right of the screen help you to navigate through the pages of data. Using the "Quality" button will improve the clarity of the image, which is especially helpful for printing a copy of the page.
- 5. You can save the page of census data as a JPEG by using the "Save to Disk" feature. Later, you can load the image into a photo manipulating program, enlarge the image to the appropriate percentage, and print the image on 11" x 17" paper for easy viewing. Another option is to use the print function to print out an 8.5" x 11" copy of the data and enlarge it with a scanner or photocopier.

Our experience with the online 1930 census data has been yet another forcible reminder of how much home computers and the Internet have changed family history research. Genealogists have too much to do to spend hours hunting for enumeration districts and searching through pages of census microfilm. With the 1930 census index and images online, we found our parents and grandparents with relative ease and collected the information we needed. Who would have dreamed that using the census could be so much fun?

Terry and Jim Willard hosted the tenpart PBS "Ancestors" series. They have researched their family history fifteen generations back on both sides.

PASSENGER LISTS

Searches are now available of the following ports for your ancestor's arrival in America.

	Indexes to lists	Pass. Lists		
New York City	1820-1948	1820-1940		
Philadelphia	1727-1948	1727-1945		
Baltimore	1820-1952	1820-1909		
Boston	1848-91,1902-20	1820-1943		
New Orleans	1813-1952	1820-1903		
Misc. Atlantic				
& Gulf Ports	1820-1874	most avail.		
San Francisco	1850-75,1893-1934	1850-1875		
Galveston, TX	1896-1951	1896-1948		
Gulfport, MS	1904-1954	-		
New Bedford, MA	1875-99,1902-54	1902-1942		
Portland, ME	1893-1954	1893-1943		
Providence, RI	1911-1954	1911-1931		
AL, FL, GA, SC	1890-1924	-		
Charleston, SC	1820-1829	1820-1829		
Savannah, GA	1890-1924	1906-1945		
New England	1600's	1600's		

Information given on lists generally includes ship's name, arrival date, passenger's names, age, sex, occupation, nationality, and sometimes literacy, destination, class of travel (first class, steerage, etc.), embarkation port, and on 1880's lists, sometimes place of birth!

Beginning about 1890: generally all of the above plus departure date, marital status, race, last residence, name and address of close relative or friend in homeland, how much money carried, whether ever in U.S. before, name and address of a relative or contact in the U.S., health, height, weight, hair and eye color, and from about 1920, planned length of stay and citizenship intentions!

Search fees: Index search: \$19.00 (one passenger / one port) or 3 ports for \$45.00 Pass. List search \$17.00 (one list)

IMPORTANT:

Index search AND List search BOTH needed unless you already know name of ship and EXACT arrival date AND port. (If not found in index, List search fee will be refunded.) If port is unknown, I suggest a 3-port search beginning with the (larger) ports at the top of the list. Indexes are generally everyname (not just head of household).

If found on list, photocopies of pages from list showing passenger's name and ship's name will be provided along with cost quote for copy of entire list and for history of ship and shipping line, often including a picture of the ship!

Please provide passenger's <u>name</u> and approximate <u>birth</u> <u>year</u>, <u>port(s)</u> of entry to be searched, approximate <u>arrival</u> <u>date</u>, and any other identifying info., such as homeland, occupation, and names of family members accompanying the passenger.

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BRADFORD COUNTY, PA

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Research Cornerstones

here's no question that some of the genealogical information available on the Internet is either incorrect or unreliable. But whether it's a problem for individual researchers depends entirely on how they use it, whether they use it at all, and how they make that decision.

It remains, however, a problem for the genealogical community because the bad data continues to proliferate. Recent threads on several mailing lists suggest that there's some genealogical equivalent Gresham's law of economics at work: bad data drives out good data just as debased coinage drives good money from circulation. No matter how long ago a correction for a particular error may have appeared in print or online, it never seems to catch up with the ever-widening distribution of the error.

It's not a problem caused by digital technology, or limited to it. The same thing happened in print long before the Internet. Multi-volume series like Frederick Virkus's Compendium of American Genealogy and John S. Wurtz's Magna Charta were standard fare in many public libraries. They published lineages submitted by their subscribers that were as unreliable as any found online. But who would suspect an expensive reference selected by their trusted librarian?

I was taken in myself years ago when I found a line in Virkus's Compendium, submitted by my grandfather's cousin, that extended our common ancestry back to the seventeenth century. I spent six months trying to find out more about the people named in her undocumented list before I realized that there were no reliable sources to support a number of her claims. Some of the same misinformation had also appeared in anonymous contributions to the



Problems and Solutions

by Donn Devine, CG, CGI

Boston Transcript "Genealogical Column," which from 1906 to 1941 played a role in today's genealogy like that of today's Web. The columns have been published in microform and are indexed in the American Genealogical and Biographical Index, popularly called the Rider Index and available online. I still don't know whether my cousin was the uncritical contributor or the gullible victim, but access to the misinformation continues to proliferate, thanks to the marvels of modern technology.

Much of the unreliable data available, both online and on CD-ROM, is in compiled pedigrees or genealogies contributed by enthusiastic but uncritical volunteers, eager to help others and proud of how many spaces they have filled on their charts. The errors often appear in many different pedigrees, carefully copied from one unreliable source to another. Correcting those errors published on disc isn't possible, and the large number of websites propagating the same errors makes their correction unfeasible. However, we can easily identify information that isn't soundly based, and still use it for whatever help it might offer in suggesting new directions for our own research.

Weeding Out Worthless Data

The first indicator of bad data is the lack of source information. Without knowing where it came from, we can't be confident in either its original accuracy or the faithfulness with which it has been passed along before reaching

If a source is given, but we don't know the quality (e.g., an author or pedigree contributor whose work and reputation aren't known to us), we will also need to look further. If we find that the source is a thoroughly researched and well-documented compiled genealogy, we may be inclined to accept it uncritically, but even in this case we need to be cautious. One online pedigree cites its source as a genealogy I had written and published in a respected research journal, but the Web pedigree didn't include corrections I made to it that were published over the following ten years in the same journal. The online pedigree continues to perpetuate the errors I made originally, even though the corrections are as widely available as my original article.

We can accept any information or data item with some confidence when 1) the source is given for it, 2) further investigation shows the source is reliable, and 3) the date of a record is close to the event, or the date of a compiled source is recent enough to include the latest corrections and critical comment. As with any genealogical finding, however, if new evidence comes along, we will have to reconsider our earlier acceptance no matter how convincing that available evidence may have been.

Causes of Data Errors

We usually find that errors in compiled genealogies, or in the lineagelinked databases produced by genealogy software programs and often shared through GEDCOM files, result from one of four causes:

- 1. An event was reported with errors regarding date, location, participants, or circumstances.
- 2. A name or event was attributed to the wrong individual.
- 3. A relationship or other status was

erroneously reported or concluded.

4. A record was misread or misinterpreted.

To verify that none of these causes have affected a particular item of information, we must determine how the original source learned of it—by direct observation or by deduction from other knowledge. If we find the original source believable, then we must judge whether the information has been reliably transmitted through whatever derivative sources it passed (e.g., other persons, records, books, transcriptions, abstracts, copies) before it got to us. Information or data that passes these two tests is of high quality and likely to be reliable.

Quality of Purchased Data

Up to this point, we have been considering unreliable information given ever-wider distribution by well-mean-

ing but uncritical volunteers, and how we can avoid being misled by their failings. It's another matter when there are errors or omissions in material that has been indexed, transcribed. abstracted, or imaged by commercial publishers or database services for sale to their customers or subscribers. This has been the most serious concern in the recent mailing list threads mentioned earlier. The complaint is not with the errors themselves (everyone recognizes that they will occur in any human endeavor) but in the low priority given to quality control in the initial production of publications and databases, and in online services of correcting problems identified by subscribers.

With publications in fixed formats such as books and CD-ROMs, little can be done until a new edition is released, but often new editions appear without corrections. With online services, technology allows instant correction, but often the priority is quantity and expansion over quality and improvement—for corporations and customers. Some websites allow users to attach "sticky notes" to entries, which helps in warning of problem entries, but where an omission has been made there's nothing to attach the warning to.

At a minimum, database services should provide organized errata pages, with numerous references and links to them. The pages would display subscribers' notifications of errors, omissions, and corrections organized by database title and page or other location designator. The subscriber notices would remain until the appropriate correction could be made in the database itself.

Not long ago, few people would have predicted that there would be a market for the huge quantity of highquality genealogical source material that is now available (like images of original records), or that electronic





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The benefits of digital technology more than make up for whatever efforts we must expend to cope with the problems of bad or missing data.



searching would make it so accessible. When we find that an indexer has misread a handwritten census entry and placed the name under the wrong initial letter, or a text-recognition program has missed a name in a newspaper image, we should return, in those individual cases, to the tedious way we used to search—by scrolling through entire enumeration districts or minor civil divisions, or by reading entire newspaper files covering some period of time.

Looking Ahead

For the future, we can expect genealogical garbage to continue to proliferate online, but we can also expect technology to bring even greater improvements, making it easier, faster, and more convenient to access high-quality data, including images of original documents on a scale hardly dreamed of. The benefits of digital technology, and particularly the Web, more than make up for whatever efforts we must expend to cope with the problems of bad or missing data.

Meanwhile, as users we can avoid being misled; we must be very critical of any information that isn't attributed to a source we can consider reliable. As contributors of data to websites and digital databases, we can assure the quality of our own input by always including a reference to the source of each information item.

Finally, when confronted by a database shortcoming, we can always resurrect those useful old strategies we used in the days before technology simplified our search procedures.

For example, if a name that should be in a census index doesn't appear, try to identify a close neighbor from city directories, deeds, tax assessments, or cadastral maps that show names of occupants. Then search for the neighbor's name in the defective census index. If found, you should be able to find your desired listing on the same or adjacent pages without having to go through all the pages for the area in which the person lived.

Those of us who remember the pre-Web days can dredge our memories for some of these useful but now seldom-used techniques. When the shortcomings of a particular database or digital publication leave us frustrated, applying some old-fashioned research practices may help us control both temper and blood pressure. We can also share these techniques with new researchers so they, too, can deal effectively with digital data problems that arise. Then, disappointment over incorrect or missing data won't dull their enjoyment of the benefits of technology. &

Donn Devine, CG^{ss} , CGI^{ss} , a genealogical consultant from Wilmington, Delaware, is an attorney for the city and archivist of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington. He is a former National Genealogical Society board member, currently chairs its Standards Committee, and is a trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists.



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[PNA27] Special Map Group for Alabama. Includes maps: (S 8) (see PNG29 above), (S 28) (see PNG29 above), (S 44) Alabama 1878, shows counties, railroads, rivers, creeks, many small villages, and towns; (F 1) Alabama 1850 (8½" x 11") shows counties.

All 4 maps: \$16.95

[PNA35] Special Map Group for Arkansas and Louisiana. Includes maps: (S 6) Mississippi, Louisiana, & the Arkansas Territory Circa 1825 shows Indian lands, county lines, settlements, rivers, creeks and roads (11" x 17"); (S 29) Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana: 1866, shows county boundaries, railway lines, small towns, settlements, small rivers, branches, and creeks; (F 2) Arkansas 1860 and (F 11) Louisiana 1850 (each 8 ½" x 11") show counties.

All 4 maps: \$11.95

[PNA31] Special Map Group for Mississippi. Includes maps: (S 6) Mississippi, Louisiana, & the Arkansas Territory Circa 1825 (see PNG35 above); (S 29) Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana: 1866 (see PNG35 above); (S 45) Mississippi: 1878, locates counties, railway lines, rivers, creeks, small villages, and towns; (F 16) Mississippi 1850 shows counties (8 ½" x 11"). All 4 maps: \$16.95

[PNA37] Special Map Group for Texas.

Includes maps: (S 21) Texas: 1866, show counties and settlements, railway lines, creeks forks, table lands, military forts, and an inset may of Galveston Bay; (F 27) Texas 1850 show counties (8 ½" x 11").

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... AND EUROPEAN AREAS

[PEA21] Special Map Group for Switzerland Includes maps: (M 16) Switzerland Circa 187: shows Cantons, Alpine towns, rail an carriage roads, mountain paths, and som villages: (M 27) Switzerland: 1794 show towns, large villages, castles, vineyard Protestant & Catholic parishes, cart road footpaths, the religious and politica affiliation of each canton.

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[PEA39] Special Map Group for Souther Italy. Includes maps: (R 21) Calabria 1890 shows the region south of the Gulfs of Taranto and Policastro. (11" x 17"; (R 22 Sicily 1890 (11" x 17") is useful for locating the many small Sicilian villages. Includes a small insemap of the Islands of Lipari; (R 27) Souther Italy: 1842, shows Italy south of Rome, the Mezzogiorno area divided into provinces villages, towns, railway lines, roads, an regional subdivisions in Sicily.

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CHECK BACK OFTEN!

Digging Deeper

hurch records of our ancestors are so valuable they should be sought to document every vital event in our ancestors' lives. Besides providing valuable data about our ancestors, they can also be invaluable in providing relevant information about an ancestor's family and community.

Determine the Church

The key to successfully using church records in your research is to first determine the church or denomination of the ancestor in question. There are a number of sources to turn to in beginning this quest. The most important source is family records. What information is found in family Bibles, letters, diaries, and other family papers? What baptismal, marriage, confirmation, and other religious documents can be found among the collected family history? Document analysis of these records is critical to any successful research endeavor.

If you are lacking family papers and home-source documents, explore the history of the area where the family lived. Early in the history of many communities, churches served both a religious and a social role. You can find numerous instances where the proximity of a church was more important to an individual or family than the doctrinal teachings of the church. If there was only one church in a remote or frontier area, chances are that folks from many miles around attended it without strict regard for their traditional church ties. By studying topography and not letting the artificial boundary lines of counties and states have undo influence, you can discover possible churches an ancestor may have attended.

An ancestor's church can also be determined from published materials. City, county, and area histories often chronicle the arrival of religious denominations and the construction of

Bless Chur Reco

by Curt B. Witcher, MLS, FUGA

places of worship. The background of those compiled works provide can set a solid foundation for further research. Nice complements to these area histories are city, rural, and prairie farmer's directories. They frequently contain lists of religious men and women as well as directories of churches by denomination. Occasionally, the actual directory entry for a particular church may provide more data about the people who attended. Directories of churches, religious bodies, and religious organizations should also be consulted.

Two Record Types

When searching for the records of a particular church or denomination, remember that there are two general types of records. One records data about the individuals in the church; the other provides evidence of the history of the church as an organization as well as the workings of its committees and meeting groups (e.g., vestries, councils, circles). Understandably, much emphasis is placed on the records of individual members, but

important information may be lost if the records of the church as an organization are not explored as well.

Church records are valuable research documents because they frequently pre-date civil vital record registration. Historically, when a town was being settled, among the first entities to be constructed was a church. And with church records typically being kept from the founding of the church, they represent some of the earliest documents recorded for many communities. Similarly, when a new ethnic group began to populate an area, a gathering place for worship was often a priority for the community. Hence, whether recent past or distant past, church records are among the earliest evidence of ethnic groups in a particular locale.

Diversity Among Typical Records

The types of church records you may encounter are as varied and numerous as the denominations themselves. The three most commonly sought-after church records are the three that mirror their civil counterparts: baptismal or christening records, marriage records, and death or burial records. Indeed, each time you seek a civil vital or marriage record, the religious or church counterpart should also be sought.

Baptismal or christening records may provide the name of the person being baptized, the sex, the parents' names, the name of the minister or officiator, the names of the sponsors or godparents, and the date of birth or age of person being baptized. Marriage records may contain the names of the two parties including the bride's maiden name, the parents' names, the name of the minister, the places of birth of the two parties, as well as their ages, residences, and any witnesses. (The data recorded on marriage records tends to vary more widely from church to church and among the various denominations than most other church records.) Death or burial records may contain the name of the deceased, the date and place of birth, the officiating clergy, the names of the surviving spouse and children, the date and cause of death, and the place of burial.

Researchers who are expecting to find all of the data elements listed above on most or every church record will be frustrated. That, however, should not discourage complete and thorough evaluation of every church record identified for an ancestor. Even if there are no formal columns in a church ledger book for particular data elements, you may find very useful information recorded in a "remarks" column and in the margins of any page. For instance, there is no column for sponsors or officiating clergy in the "baptism of infants" ledger of the Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the early twentieth century. However, for a number of entries, that information can be found under "remark."

Other Church Records

In addition to baptismal, marriage, and death records, there are a host of other records that document the lives of members that many churches maintain. Whether a member record exists depends on a number of factors: the beliefs of the denomination, the time period of the record, the thoroughness of the clergy, even the geographical area in which the church existed.

Membership rolls, lists, or rosters are among the most common miscellaneous church records. For a number of Christian religions, communicant lists and confirmation records also document an individual as a part of a church congregation and may provide additional information about the person or family. Pew rentals can be used to assist in determining when an individual or family may have come to the town or region. With church cemetery records, you may find family plots containing several generations of burials.

When investigating church records for evidence of a particular ancestor, look not only for the particular individual being researched but also for every occurrence of the surname in all its variant spellings. Since many of our ancestral families lived in the same area for several generations or more, one church's records may contain numerous meaningful documents for a number of generations.

To complement the records relating to individual members, the records of a church as an organization include numerous meeting records such as council or vestry minutes. And though these records often contain the dry details of running a church, they may also contain significant member information. Examples include the names of individuals being welcomed into the church (noting the town and church from which they came), indi-

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viduals leaving the church, and individuals being disciplined.

Parishes, churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship may have compiled and published histories that contain significant historical details including many lists and rolls. And while church directories are more common in the mid- to late-twentieth century, look for the existence of these publications in earlier times as well. The earlier a church was founded, the greater the possibility that at some anniversary date a publication was compiled to detail its history.

When looking for specific church histories, keep a sharp eye peeled for denominational histories. They can provide a valuable context in which to seek additional records, learn of other not so well-known churches, and understand where particular church records might be archived.

Denominational histories often describe the rise and demise of smaller churches. These details can be critical in determining where to look for an ancestor's church records when the church no longer exists. It is equally critical that the bibliographies and notes of denominational histories be scoured for leads to other published materials as well as the depositories and archives of the denomination.

Accessing the Records

Accessing the extant records from an ancestor's church should not be too challenging. Many denominations are making the effort to preserve and publish their records in some form. Many historical and genealogical societies have indexed, abstracted, and transcribed church records and made these publications available in libraries and other research repositories. Many more individuals and organizations have published similar works in society magazines, newsletters, and quarterlies with thousands of these periodical publications being indexed in the

Periodical Source Index (PERSI).

The Family History Library, both through its website and through its many decades of microfilming all over the world, has brought thousands of church records within the reach of genealogists. At FamilySearch.org, genealogists can access the wellresearched and well-written research outlines for every state. And there is a "Church Records" section on each research outline. This section typically tells a brief history of the religious groups in the state and provides lists of specific guidebooks and record inventories. These pages help determine what denominations were in a particular state and how to identify and access the various records.

Even more priceless are the thousands of reels of microfilmed church records listed in the Family History Library Catalog at FamilySearch.org. (Yes, there is more to this site than the robust databases of names!) Using the catalog to search by church name, denomination, or geographic location, determining if the records of your ancestral church have been microfilmed is easy. Through Family History Centers and other designated libraries, you can then order the microfilm for an ancestor's church and view it at a repository in your own community.

Whether our families were faith-filled believers or ones that tended to be more wayward, the chances are great that church records documented parts of their lives. These church records are so plentiful that they are truly a blessing for genealogical researchers. §

Curt B. Witcher, MLS, FUGA, is the president of the National Genealogical Society and the manager of the historical genealogy department for the Allen County Public Library. He is also a popular genealogical lecturer.

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Technology

by Mark Howells



Questioning Photo Manipulation

Some time ago, I received a colorized photo from an online acquaintance. His great-grandfather and my great-great-uncle had served in the same British regiment together. The photo was his great-grandfather's wedding picture. The groom was standing proudly in his red

dress uniform while his bride was seated in a lovely wedding dress holding a bouquet of flowers. My friend is a graphic artist and works in the photography business. He had done a magnificent job colorizing the black and white picture. Only the bride and groom were in color; the background of the picture was still in black and white.

Because parts of the photo were still in their original format, it was clear that the photograph had been colorized. But I started to think about how our modern tools for digitally manipulating pictures might be changing the way we view photographs in our family album. What if my friend had colorized the entire photo and not mentioned the fact to me? Would I have been able to

determine that the photo was not a faithful representation of the photograph in its original form? On a greater scale, will the use of photomanipulation tools provide false images to future generations who might assume these images were not changed? What are the ethics of mod-



ifying family photographs when used as pictorial evidence in our genealogy research?

Trick of the Light

Photographic trickery is as old as photography itself. Photographers have always been able to change the

composition of a picture in the dark room. Retouching and double exposures have been possible but have required technical expertise and special equipment.

Photo manipulation has a long history. Photographers always staged their formal portraits of individuals by adding props or backdrops. Formal portraits were usually made with subjects wearing their Sunday best rather than their everyday work clothes. Thus the clothes, the props, and the backgrounds in historic photos may not truly represent how the subjects dressed, what tools they used, or what environment they lived in. Painting directly onto a finished photograph was also popular before color photography. One of my own family photographs

shows an example of a suit and tie being painted over a photograph for one ancestor who most likely never owned a suit and tie.

So even though the manipulation of photographs is not new, it's an issue

red? Is it automatically filled in by the graphics software? Is it the user's best guess at the correct eye color? Will future generations have a mistaken image of the subject because the eye color was improved?

Just because we can manipulate family photographs doesn't mean that we should.

today because graphics software has become so commonplace. Gone are the days when a computer user had to spend several hundred dollars for Photoshop® or even \$100 for Paint Shop Pro®. Now, easy-to-use graphics programs such as Paint and Paintbrush actually come with operating systems. Add a digital camera or a scanner and the modern computer user can be drawing purple mustaches on Aunt Gertrude in no time at all.

Computer modifications can make a digital image indistinguishable from the original. Photographs can be made lighter and brighter, sharpened, and given more contrast. Color photographs can be manipulated to remove red eye and water spots, digitally crop and rotate, and repair other damage. Digital images do not have negatives that act as a reference for what was actually captured by the photo.

The Red Eye

Just because we can manipulate family photographs does not mean that we should. This is an ethics issue that users of graphics software must bear in mind. To give a simple example, removing red eye from a digital color photograph seems innocuous enough. The red eye itself is an effect from the camera's flash and not a part of the actual scene. However, if the red eye is removed, what color replaces the

What about more complex digital manipulations such as the colorization of the wedding photo discussed earlier? The uniform color of the tunic is historically well documented. Appropriate research would produce a very close match for the groom's uniform. However, the color of the bride's gown and flowers must be more speculative. When adding color to a black and white photo, how can the manipulator know if the colors represent the original

Outfits and bouquets are not the only colorization issue. What about skin tone? This is an issue that has drawn national attention in the press. The 24 June 1994 cover of Time shows the mugshot photo of O.J. Simpson. However, it had been manipulated to make Simpson's skin darker, his face more blurry, and his chin unshaven. The same week, Newsweek showed the actual mugshot photo of a much less menacing Simpson with actual skin tone, clean shaven, and in focus. Magazine readers were not informed that Time had manipulated the photograph. Should a family historian ever colorize or change existing colors in existing photographs to suit his or her own needs? Should a researcher change hair, eye, or skin color to make a child look more like his or her adoptive parents? Should a family historian

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2004 Kramer Street La Crosse, WI 54603 Fax: 608.781.3883 brookhaven@nmt.com darken the skin of an old photograph of a Caucasian ancestor to make him or her appear more consistent with their primarily African ancestry?

The potential for manipulation does not end at the color palette. Individuals can be digitally removed from group photographs. Consider the potential for divorce within families and the desire to "forget" a former family member. Besides plucking out the ex, new bodies and faces may be added as well. A quick cut-and-paste job and a greatgreat-grandfather can be standing in a group photo from a 2003 family picnic.

People aren't the only things to come and go in the digital manipulation of photographs. An ancestor proudly posing with his hunting rifle can be made to hold a fishing rod by a descendant who disapproves of firearms. Or, a picture of an ancestor attending a rally of a now-discredited political movement can be cropped to a simple portrait of his face.

Through the Viewfinder Darkly

Should a family photograph be digitally manipulated? The answer depends on the purpose. If the manipulation is an attempt to clean, sharpen, or otherwise make more viewable a treasured photograph, the software is easily available now and should be utilized. Ask yourself why you are changing the photograph. How will viewers interpret the manipulated photo? How would they interpret it without your manipulation? Will viewers recognize that the photo has been manipulated? If current or future viewers might be confused or misled by your manipulation, don't do it.

If the desire to manipulate a family photograph cannot be resisted, there are two options that will assist future generations in ferreting out your changes. First, make the manipulation obvious. My friend colorized the subjects but left backgrounds and other objects in the original black and white

so it was clear that it had been manipulated.

Second, digitally label manipulated images. The graphics program you use for manipulation will allow you to label the photo in an unobtrusive spot on the image. "Original image sharpened, colorized, and cropped by Mic L. Angelo in 2003" in digital text right on the image would be a good start. Just like using clear references to secondary source citations in textual research, family photographs should be labeled as such if they do not represent the original view. Digitally recording the changes directly on the image will help ensure that wherever the modified image travels in time and space, future generations stand a good chance of knowing that it is not the original. 🔊

Mark Howells plays with pixels at markhow@oz.net

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Denmark for twenty five years, Trilby is extremely knowledgeable about the country, its history, culture, and all of the important sites. Speaking not only Danish but Swedish as well, she breezed us through train stations and hotel lobbies, and kept true to a well planned itinerary. She was friendly, enthusiastic, and delightful to be with. She made possible a visit into the building in which my great-grandfather was born in 1834! An experienced genealogist, she orchestrated efficient research time in both the Copenhagen City Archives and the Danish National Archives. This picture shows me in awe viewing the 1845 census record book and my great-grandfather's name!

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Case Study

his is the story of a 140-yearold letter and its writer. The letter is puzzling not because of its contents, but because of its intriguing history and the many questions it raises. Why was it never mailed? Why was it torn up and by whom? Why was it pasted back together again and saved? And how did it find its way from Brooklyn, New York, to Spokane, Washington, 125 years after it was written? The writer of the letter was a thirty-six-year-old man who was dying, a man who had lived in the United States for less than twenty-five years—my great-grandfather Frederick Ecker.

When I consider my four great-grandfathers, Frederick Ecker is the relatively unknown member of the group. He is my mother's maternal grandfather. Mother told me a little about him—things she had learned from her mother—and with limited success I was able to uncover some additional details about his life before the letter appeared on the research scene. Following is a brief history of Frederick's life as we knew it before the advent of the letter with its tantalizing history. This is his story.

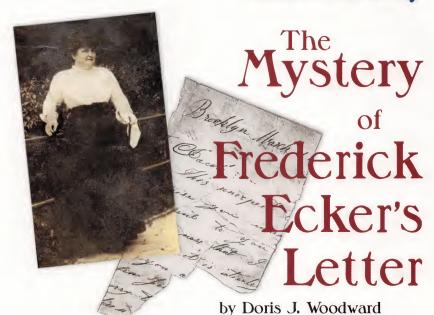
Frederick's Life

Frederick Ecker was born about 1826 and according to Mother came from Alsace-Lorraine,

the area of Europe that partially separates Germany from France. I have found nothing to dispute that statement. Some



records state that he was German; others claim that he was French. This is fairly typical of emigrants from Alsace-Lorraine, which has a long history as an area with split loyalties and diverse languages, so the discrepancies in nationality are understandable. In the



1900 Brooklyn census, Frederick's daughter Louise stated that her father was born in France and spoke French.

Sadly, we have no idea where in that area Frederick was born. Without the name of a town or parish, it is virtually impossible to find a birth or baptismal record, and to date the LDS Church has not extracted any Alsace-Lorraine parish registers on the *IGI*. When and if it does, we may have the pleasure of finding Frederick Ecker there at last.

The date of Frederick's arrival in America is unknown, but he was in New York City before 1852, when he married a young German girl by the name of Barbara Engel. Although we

have no marriage license for this

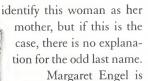
couple, family tradition gives us his wife's name (not very strong evidence to be sure, but there has never been any reason to doubt it). The death cer-

tificate of their daughter Louise, my grandmother, gives the names of her parents as Frederick Ecker of France and Barbara Engel of Germany, so we accept the Ecker/Engel marriage.

Frederick was a barber, first found in the New York city directories in 1853 at 373 Avenue G. The ensuing years find him at various addresses in the same general area. By 1862, his business address is given as 29 Williams Street in Brooklyn. This also substantiates the family story.

The most important information concerning Frederick's family comes from the 1860 Census, when they were living at 476 Ninth Avenue in the 20th Ward of New York City. The census gives the following information: Frederick Ecker, age thirty-one, male, barber, personal property \$100, born in Germany. Barbara Ecker, age twenty-six, female, born in Germany.

The children, all born in New York City, are Emily Ecker, age six; Charles Ecker, age five; and Louise Ecker, age three. Also in the household is a Margaret Sipple(?), age fifty-nine, a housekeeper, born in Germany. The identity of Margaret Sipple is questionable. Furthermore, the name is not clearly written in the census, and it may not be Sipple at all. Barbara Engel's mother's name was Margaret, and the age of fifty-nine would be correct to



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found in later censuses, and this is the name given on her death certificate and on her tombstone, so perhaps Margaret Sipple was simply a woman who worked for the family.

While all of this information was fairly substantial, there were still many unknowns in

Frederick Ecker's life. Most importantly, we knew nothing about his origins, the names of his parents, or who his ancestors were. Before finding his letter, nothing was known about any siblings either.

In June 1863, Frederick Ecker died of tuberculosis at only thirty-seven years of age. His wife Barbara had given birth to a fourth child, Louis, in January of 1863, who also died in June of the same year. The young widow bought a cemetery plot at Lutheran Cemetery in Middle Village, Long Island, just east of Brooklyn. Here she buried her young husband on June 9th and her baby boy on June 18th. It must have been almost too much for a young twenty-nine-year-old woman to endure. But somehow she managed to keep her little family together, probably with the help of her mother. The family remained in Manhattan. Barbara earned a living as a dressmaker, and both of her daughters later followed the same profession. When she was older, daughter Louise spoke very little about her early life in New York City, but she clearly remembered a day in 1865 when she and her family witnessed the emotional procession of Abraham Lincoln's cortege as it moved through the streets on its long journey back to Springfield, Illinois. It was a sight that eight-year-old Louise never forgot.

Unfortunately for the Ecker family, tragedy was to strike again. By June of 1870 Barbara had died, at the age of thirty-six, and was also buried at Lutheran Cemetery. Undoubtedly, Barbara never realized that it would be the final resting place of not only the Ecker family and her mother, Margaret Engel, but also of daughter Louise, Louise's husband John Fletcher, and many of their Fletcher descendants. After Barbara's death, her children were cared for by their elderly German grandmother until they were old enough to care for themselves.

The story of Frederick and Barbara is a tragic one, and it is made even more poignant by the letter Frederick wrote two months before his death to his brother Jacob, who was living in Ohio. How this letter came into my hands is, I believe, a remarkable story.

New York City, 1863

Barbara Ecker probably found Frederick's unmailed letter after his death. She must have decided to keep it, perhaps for sentimental reasons. After her death it passed into the hands of her daughter, Louise. Maybe Barbara had torn it up first and then decided not to throw it away after all. We will never know. But Louise did keep it-for at least sixty years. In 1877, she married John Fletcher in New York City. The couple had two sons there, and then moved to Brooklyn. Three more sons were born to them in Brooklyn, plus one daughter, my mother Carolyn. As their family grew, they moved several times in Brooklyn, and the letter went with them each time.

John Fletcher died in 1914, and eventually the Fletcher children all married and moved into their own homes. Several remained in Brooklyn; one moved to Massena, New York; and daughter Carolyn with husband Ed Woodward moved to La Grange, Illinois. Mother Louise gave up her home and spent the remainder of her long life living with one child or another. She spent at least one month every year with our family in Illinois. Apparently the letter went everywhere with her, because in 1932 she and the letter were in our home in La Grange.

La Grange, Illinois, 1932

After Grandma left our home that year, my sister Natalie found the torn-up letter (probably in a waste basket, although she's not sure about that). Grandma may have torn the letter up herself before she left, but if she did, there doesn't seem to be an explanation for it. Natalie enlisted our dad's help in putting the pieces back together again. This must have been a fairly daunting task as there were at least 200 pieces, about 1" x 1" each. They succeeded, however, and pasted the individual pieces onto two 8 1/2 x 11

ual pieces onto two 8 1/2 x 11 sheets of cardboard. At the top of the first page is written, in my dad's inimitable handwriting, "Frederick Ecker (Mom's grandfather)." The sheets were placed in a large manila envelope, and Natalie stashed them away with her other treasures, to be forgotten for another fifty years.

Spokane, Washington, 1980s

My mother died in 1984, and as so often happens after the death of a loved one, I became interested in family history and wished that I had spent more time talking to my mom about her family. My sister and I discussed it a lot, however, and she often sent me things, especially pictures that she knew I would like to have. One

day as we were talking on the phone, she said, "I'll bet you'd like to have Grandpa Ecker's letter."

To say I was stunned is a monumental understatement. Would I like to have Frederick Ecker's letter? I had never even heard of Frederick Ecker's letter. Of course I would like to have it! By that time, Natalie had been living

I lifted it off, I found my answer. There was writing on the back. This was not a two-page letter at all—it was three! The second page was written on the back of the first and was pasted down on the cardboard. How was I ever going to be able to read it?

Fortunately, Natalie and our dad had only used library paste in putting the

mother or to Barbara's mother. He closed the letter with his "best regards to you and your sons Peter and J... [torn]" His signature, while not complete, is still clear.

How the Letter Helped

The letter provided some wonderful new information, in particular the names of two brothers never before known, plus the name of at least one nephew. There was also the fact that "brother Chris" served in the Civil War!

Brother Jacob was easy to find. In 1850, he and his wife Mary were living in New York City with their three sons and two daughters. Jacob was thirty-eight years old, a shoemaker, and his birthplace is given as France. Two of his sons were named Peter and John, which confirmed the names in Frederick's letter. With Jacob we knew we had found a bona fide member of the family.

According to New York city directories, Jacob was living in New York City by 1836–1837. A check of the 1840 Census shows that Frederick was probably living with Jacob at that time, as there was a male in the household ten to fifteen years old, and none of Jacob's sons were that old in 1840. In 1860 Jacob is still found in a New York city directory, but by the time the 1860 Census was taken, he was living in Baughman Township, Wayne County, Ohio. Here he is called a

boot and shoemaker, and his birthplace again is given as France. Only two sons, Peter and John, are living with him. His wife was presumably dead and the other children married by that time.

Jacob lived in Wayne County the remainder of his long life and is buried there. Unfortunately, his death certificate contains no information about his parents or place of birth. His son John later moved to Missouri, and son Peter

A letter that had been written more than 125 years before was being mailed for the first time.

in Santa Monica for forty years, and neither of us knows why she kept those two pieces of cardboard all that time. Fortunately she remembered them and had the notion that I might have more use for them than she, so into the mail they went. A letter that had been written more than 125 years before was being mailed for the first time.

The Contents of the Letter

Receiving this treasure was a real delight for me, and I read the two pages eagerly. The letter was dated 11 March 1863, midway through the Civil War. Frederick wrote it to his brother Jacob in Ohio. The name of Jacob Ecker had never been mentioned in our family before. To my knowledge, no one knew about him. Frederick's handwriting was quite good, and the letter was fairly easy to read, even pieced together the way it was and with some pieces missing altogether.

The last sentence on the first page said, "I will remove my family to New York for the summer. Last spring..." The next page began, "... and he thinks of coming home on the first of May." This was odd. Something was missing here, perhaps an entire page. Fortuitously, one of the pieces on the first page was coming loose, and when

letter together. Working carefully, I was able to detach

all the pieces and put them

back on a sheet of clear contact paper. When everything was nicely completed, I turned the sheet over to read a considerable amount of new material on that second page.

Frederick was a very sick man when he wrote his letter to "Dear Brouther Jacob." However, he still hoped that he could move his family to the west, where the climate might be healthier and not as damp as Brooklyn. He described to Jacob his stay at "Bricklings" in Rockland County, probably a tuberculosis sanatorium. Sadly his three-month stay there did not help him at all. He wanted Jacob to tell him how much it would cost to move his family to Ohio and whether the trip could be made by railroad or if some of it would have to be across one of the Great Lakes.

On page two he proceeded to write about "my brother Chris," who was doing well in the army. He wrote, "He thinks of coming home on the first of May, his two years being up." He also mentions "mother," but as a truly frustrating genealogical glitch, it isn't clear if he is referring to his and Jacob's

served in the Civil War. As an interesting note, Peter later applied for a Civil War pension due to lung disease, perhaps a family weakness.

Finding Jacob was a positive step forward in learning more about Frederick, although it did not help in finding where the brothers originally came from. I found naturalization papers for them both, in which they abjured allegiance to the Emperor of the French. This fact lends credence to the idea that they came from Alsace-Lorraine.

The last major clue in the letter is his reference to "my brother Chris." It was exciting to consider the possibility that I might find a Christopher or Christian Ecker who served in the Civil War and perhaps applied for a pension afterward. Sadly, this was not to be the case. All attempts to find such a man were negative, so I followed a well-worn axiom of genealogy: after you've read something once, try reading it again for a new perspective. Even though I had read the letter many times, I did so again and was stunned to realize that I had overlooked a major clue. Frederick's reference is to "my" brother Chris. Why did he phrase it in that fashion when he was writing to his brother Jacob? Wouldn't he have said "brother Chris" or "our brother Chris"? The idea that he was referring to a brother-in-law, a brother of his wife Barbara Engel, became a distinct possibility. The search was on for a Chris Engel.

I would like to relate a successful search for Chris, but that has not happened. "Chris" is probably short for Christian, a fairly common name in Germany. Knowing his name may help me to eventually identify the Engel family, with a mother named Margaret, a daughter named Barbara, and a son named Christian.

Having this letter in Frederick's handwriting gave me another opportunity that is not often available with our more distant ancestors—that of handwriting analysis. Although there are varying opinions about this technique, at the very least it offers insight into the writer's personality traits and abilities. Of most importance to me in studying the results of this analysis were the following characteristics: Frederick had great dignity and pride; he had the ability to concentrate, preferring to do one thing at a time; he was honest and reliable; he had the desire to have things done properly; and he was fairly well-educated for those times. The analyst saw evidences of depression, undoubtedly due to his illness. Acknowledging that very lit-

Frederick's letter will probably always be a mystery. The many questions remain, and I have been unable to answer any of them: why he never mailed it, why it was torn up, why it was saved, why my grandmother carried it around with her for so long, and how it managed to survive for 140 years. I can simply add that I am very glad it did, if only because it adds some dimension to the life of this little-known ancestor. \$\mathcal{Q}\$

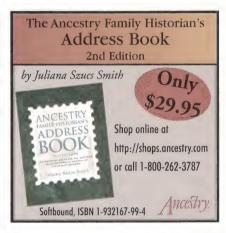
tle is known about this man, the handwriting analysis has

helped a great deal in understanding more about him.

Doris J. Woodward, a native of La Grange, Illinois, is the editor of The Bulletin, the quarterly journal of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society. She is also an award-winning freelance writer.

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Bare Bones

Wildcat Bleachers

by Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, CGRS, CGL

ne day, early in our marriage, my husband mentioned that his Doherty ancestors lived along the third-base line of the baseball field that preceded Tigers Stadium in Detroit. He indicated that the house was torn down to build Navin Field, an earlier name for Tigers Stadium.

I must admit to a significant amount of skepticism regarding family stories because many of my family's stories have turned out to be untrue. But my husband's family stories have proven to be quite accurate, and this one was no exception.

Using city directories, I was able to document Charles Doherty and—after his death in 1876—his wife, Mary, living at 12 National Avenue from 1864 until 1911. The 1912 Detroit City Directory does not list any low, even-numbered houses on National Avenue, although they had been there in previous years, including number 12.

Bennett Park was the first stadium-made of wood-in which the Tigers played. It was on the corner of Michigan and Trumbull avenues, and just behind the houses lining the eastern side of National Avenue. Home plate was situated in the corner of the stadium closest to the intersection of Michigan and National avenues. According to an 1897 Sanborn Fire Map, house numbers 8 thru 16, and 20 thru 28 backed up to a ten-foot-high board fence along the third-base line of Bennett Park. Most of these homes had a one- or two-story stable at the back of the lot.

After proving the story true, my appetite was whetted to learn more. I asked my mother-in-law if she remembered anything else about her family living at this location. She

recalled that her grandmother used to sell tickets to

watch the ball games from the top of her stable.

As I discovered, nearly all of homeowners along the ball field were entrepreneurs. A visit to Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library enlightened me to the concept of "Wildcat Bleachers" adjacent to Bennett Park around the turn of the century. The homeowners built these rickety bleachers atop their stables and sold tickets, pocketing the money. This didn't sit well with Tigers owner Frank Navin, who tried a variety of methods to discourage the loss of revenue. At some point before 1910, a cloth screen was erected to block the view from the bleachers.

Eventually, Navin's frustration peaked and in 1911 he bought the properties along the eastern side of National Avenue from the offending homeowners and leveled Bennett Park. In 1912 he opened a new stadium built of concrete and steel. The 1919 Sanborn Fire Map shows Navin Field extending all the way to the corners of National, Michigan, and Trumbull avenues, with no chance for wildcat bleachers to interfere with revenues. Some of my early research was complicated by the fact that National Avenue no longer exists. At some point, the City of Detroit changed the name of National Avenue to Cochrane Avenue, after popular Tigers ballplayer and manager Mickey Cochrane.

A small ironic twist to this story is that I am a native of a Chicago suburb and grew up an avid Chicago Cubs fan. I spent many summer afternoons in the legitimate left-field bleachers at



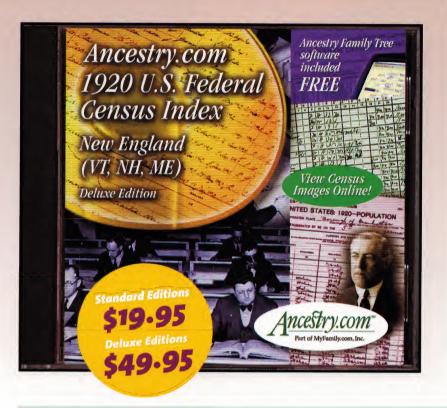
Wrigley Field and frequently noticed people watching the ball game from lawn chairs atop the apartment buildings that overlook left and right fields. At some point after I was unable to attend Cubs games any more, bleachers were built on top of some of these apartment buildings. A century after Frank Navin objected to the loss of revenue due to the wildcat bleachers, Cubs owners are battling the loss of revenue from their own wildcat bleacher crowd on the surrounding apartment buildings. Cubs owners and the Wrigleyville neighborhood association are frequently at odds regarding improvements to the stadium, including a wind screen that was put up in 2001 that allegedly blocks the view from the wildcat bleachers.

Being a die-hard Cubs fan and Wrigley Field romantic, I hope the final result of the disagreements between the two camps is not the destruction of the ball park, the second oldest in the major leagues. That was how Frank Navin solved his problem.

So once again I have to bow to the inevitability that the stories from my husband's side of the family are true—and can be verified—while the stories from my side of the family belong more in the category of tall tales. But the intrigue for me is taking that tidbit and flushing it out into the reality that was the day-to-day lives of our ancestors. §

Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, CGRS, CGL, is a frequent contributor to Ancestry Magazine. She is also the managing editor of Genealogical Computing.

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